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Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support the idea of stopping future automatic increases in the CNMI's minimum wage?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Super Tuesday

Democrat candidates raced through the final hours of a Super Tuesday campaign across 22 states.

NATION...Page 14

Speaker Ousted

Philippine lawmakers oust the powerful leader of the House of Representatives.

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Rio Madness

A Brazilian carnival group danced the samba through the streets with men and women in white gowns wearing gags.

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GOB starts distributing over 500 checks. **PAGE 3**

Head to Tinian for Hot Pepper Festival. **PAGE 8**

CUC emergency extended—again

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez has extended the state of disaster emergency declaration at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for another 30 days.

Villagomez said that CUC's inability to provide adequate power service continues to pose a threat to the islands.

"This declaration of a state of disaster emergency is made after finding that the justifications that existed for the declaration of a state of disaster emergency issued on Dec. 5, 2007 and Jan. 4, 2008,

See CUC on Page 4

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Crowned cranes are seen inside their cage while Palms Resort Saipan assistant general manager Ray C. de La Cruz looks on, during a brief turnover of an array of exotic birds to the Saipan Zoo from Palms Resort Saipan Tuesday afternoon.

Palms Resort gives exotic birds to zoo

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Palms Resort Saipan had donated an array of exotic birds to the Saipan Zoo yesterday.

According to Saipan Zoo owner Frank Aldan, between $18,000-$20,000 worth of exotic birds were donated to his business yesterday.

"I'm really excited that they've decided to donate these birds to the zoo. I've written letters before to when it was once Hotel Nikko, even offering to buy some of them. I was happy when they told me that they are willing to donate them instead," Aldan said.

See PALMS on Page 4

Tribune publisher JP Pangelinan, 70

By AGNES E. DONATO and MARK RABAGO
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TRIBUNE STAFF

Pangelinan

Saipan Tribune publisher John Pangelinan died yesterday after a long battle with lung cancer. He was 70.

Pangelinan—or "JP" as colleagues and employees call him—passed away at the Commonwealth Health Center at about 3pm Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2008.

He had previously survived cancer, but the illness recurred last year.

Colleagues greeted his death with sorrow and regret.

Finance Secretary Eloy S. Inos,

See TRIBUNE on Page 4

IRS follows up on illegal refund scheme

SEATTLE—The U.S. Internal Revenue Service is returning to Saipan this month to help filers correct their filing and repay the refunds that they illegally obtained in a fraudulent refund scheme.

IRS personnel will be on Saipan on Feb. 11–15, 2008 to hold another walk-in clinic to help individuals in filing amended tax returns, and in returning the money to the Internal Revenue Service.

Individuals who attended the May 2007 clinic, and who have residual IRS

See IRS on Page 4

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
FIRST PUBLIC NOTICE

(Tuesday, February 5th, 2008)—The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) provides advanced Public Notice of scheduled Public Hearings for the purpose of accepting written and verbal comments on proposed action to make emergency electric-fuel rate increases permanent regulations. As is permissible in Public Law 15-94, under Section 2, "The Electric-Fuel Rates may fluctuate depending on the actual cost of fuel."

Proposal Summary and Background
On November 2, 2007 Emergency Regulations were promulgated to adjust the utility rate structure to allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) to recover a portion of the costs it is charged by big oil companies for diesel and lube oils. The cost-recovery or fluctuating fuel costs are allowable under Section 2 of Public Law 15-94.

The adjustment, however, did not allow full cost-recovery for the utility's residential customers. This created a funding shortfall which led to the need for a Declaration of a State of Disaster Emergency, which remains in effect. (Executive Order 2007-11, Executive Order 2008-1, Executive Order 2008-2).

On January 31, 2008, the CUC published Proposed Amendments to the Electric Service Regulations in a Supplemental Commonwealth Register (Volume 30 No. 01). The proposal is to make the emergency electric-fuel rate increases permanent regulations. Copies of the Proposed Amendments to the Electric Service Regulations are available at the CUC or the Office of Attorney General. As written in the January 31, 2008, Supplemental Commonwealth Register, CUC has given thirty (30) days notice of its intent to adopt the regulations as permanent pursuant to 1 CMC § 9104(a) and to hold public hearings on the proposed regulations in each senatorial district pursuant to 4 CMC § 8142, as amended by Executive Order 2006-4.

The CUC will hold Public Hearings within each of the CNMI senatorial districts as follows:

Tuesday, February 19, 2008	**1:00 p.m.**	**Tinian** **Tinian Court House, San Jose**
Wednesday, February 20, 2008	**1:00 p.m.**	**Saipan** **Multi-Purpose Civic Center**
Thursday, February 21, 2008	**1:00 p.m.**	**Rota** **Rota Court House**

Customer comments are encouraged now through February 29th, 2008. Please write comments or a letter to the CUC Executive Director, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950; or, via facsimile to: (670) 235-5131; or, via e-mail: betty@cucgov.net

Local

No plans yet for old prison

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

There are no plans yet on what to do with the old adult prison facility in Susupe once all the inmates and detainees are transferred to the new prison.

Department of Corrections Commissioner Lino Tenorio said that when everything is in order at the new correctional facility, they will bring the issue of the old facility to the attention of the governor.

Tenorio said maybe the old facility will be returned back to the Division of Public Lands and have them decide what to do with it.

Tenorio said another option is to come up with a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Public Safety if it wants it.

"What is important is whether or not the facility itself is still feasible to be used by any other agencies," he said.

If it is found hazardous, then the government may have to break it down and use it as a parking space.

With respect to the Drug Resistance Abuse Building that is currently housing those people dealing with drugs, Tenorio said they have to "get rid of it" because they must transfer all inmates and detainees to the new facility.

"We may have to abandon that because we are trying to cut costs. And if we are to keep that we have to pay additional power, water and manning," he said.

Tenorio said he believes that the building, which is located behind the Bureau of Motor Vehicle, is owned by the courts.

Last Saturday the new correctional facility, officially called the Vicente Taman Seman Memorial Building, was finally opened.

Tenorio said all inmates and detainees will slowly be transferred in the coming weeks from the old detention to the new facility.

Santos wins salad competition

The winner of Aqua Resort Club's "In the name of Salad" competition is Ana Santos, with her "INA'S Golai Salad" submission.

According to Food & Beverage sales manager Yoshimi Yanagisawa, Santos's salad raked in the most votes with over a hundred.

Santos' win earns her an overnight stay for two at one of the Aqua Resort's deluxe room.

Her salad will also be featured regularly in Aqua Resort's "light & easy" lunch buffet from Monday to Saturday.

The "In the Name of Salad" competition was open to anyone who has prepared an original, unpublished salad or dressing recipe.

The salad entries were submitted by individuals who wished to share their recipes. The submitted dressings and salads were then prepared by ARC's chefs and were served in their buffets.

The entries were voted by lunch buffet customers who were given the chance to taste the recipes and decide which among the entries should win Best Salad and Best Dressing.

Acting F&B manager Mayeth DeGuzman said the contest is one way to promote locally grown vegetables and ingredients. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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6PM Lobby of Saipan Grand Hotel
Competition for the 4 to 9 years old category
Top 3 winners to be announced
FEB. 15, 2008 – FRIDAY FOOD FAIR
6PM Lobby of Saipan Grand Hotel
Competition for the 9 to 13 years old category
Top 3 winners to be announced
FEB. 22, 2008 – FRIDAY FOOD FAIR
6PM Lobby of Saipan Grand Hotel
SHOWDOWN of the Top 3 winners of the two categories
Text votes results back to zero
FEB. 29, 2008
FRIDAY FOOD FAIR
6PM Lobby of Saipan Grand Hotel
GRAND FINALS
0201 Arriane Antonio
0202 Erika Tubera
0203 John Huevos
0204 Judy Anne Sanchez
0205 Lizelle Salanga
0206 Luouibelle Lavetoria
0207 Miguel Andrei Aninon
0208 Mozelle Campo
Category 2: 10 to 13 years old
0209 Annabel Manzo
0210 Carmela Lumbad
0211 Darren John Cajipo
0212 Maria Christine Castro
0213 Mary Antoinette Alovera
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GOB starts distributing over 500 checks

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Garment Oversight Board has started distributing over 500 checks to workers who are found qualified to be members in the class lawsuit against the garment industry.

GOB chair Timothy Bellas told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they sent out last week 100 of over 500 checks to workers in China.

Bellas said that in the next couple of days they are going to send the remaining checks to the people who are still here on Saipan.

There are 332 persons who shall receive a payment of $479 each, for a total of $159,028, according to GOB's plan for distribution that was recently approved by U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Alex R. Munson.

Except for Philippine citizens, Federal Insurance Contributions Act taxes will be withheld from such checks and paid to the U.S. government.

In GOB's plan, Bellas said CNMI taxes shall be withheld from the payment of each of these 332 workers, but shall not be forwarded to the CNMI government due the overpayment of such taxes from the first distribution.

GOB will then wait 60 days from this distribution to determine if all of the 332 checks have been cashed.

"All checks which have not been negotiated or returned to the GOB by the close of the 60-day period will be cancelled and the proceeds included as part of the corpus of the residual funds," Bellas said.

These 332 garment workers are those who never received a payment in connection with the settlement in the class suit.

Bellas said they are the ones not previously included in the initial distribution but who have provided documentation to the GOB showing they were qualified to be members of the class and most of whom are still located on Saipan.

The GOB chairman said there are 88 other workers whose checks are currently being reissued.

Bellas said there are also 242 other workers who did not receive the initial distribution from claims administrator Gilardi & Co. because their addresses were not valid. These 242 workers, however, have now made contact with the GOB and gave more accurate addresses.

These 242 workers, Bellas said, will have a check in the amount that was previously issued by the claims administrator re-issued to them.

Bellas yesterday said that, after the distribution of two batches of checks, they are going to issue the supplemental payment for the remainder of the $2 million that GOB has in possession.

"But that payment will go up to 14,000 people," he pointed out.

Bellas said it is a big payment in terms of what GOB has to do, "but not a big payment in terms of the workers who probably get around $130 or something like that."

GOB is anticipating to get by April 2008 $100,000 in reserve tax payment that the plaintiffs' lawyers are holding.

GOB has already in possession of $2.3 million that is ready for distribution to the settlement class members. As of Dec. 5, 2007, it has in possession a total of $2,292,052.43.

Munson had already approved GOB's five-phase plan in accomplishing its task of distributing the money to the current and former garment workers who are eligible to the settlement money.

GOB was initially set up to oversee the monitoring program of the garment industry pursuant to the settlement agreement.

The court ordered GOB to receive from the claims administrator all remaining funds and distribute those money to those garment workers eligible under the settlement agreement.

Car sales down slightly in January

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Automobile sales were slightly down last month, as the islands three automobile dealerships—Microl Corp., Joeten Motors, and Triple J Motors—sold 67 units in January 2008, a 1.47-percent drop from the 68 sold in January 2007.

Despite sales dipping by one unit last month compared to sales during same month last year, Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association president and Joeten Motors general manager Matt Deets said the figures were still favorable.

"We're running the same numbers from last year. January was a relatively good month this year and last year. Traditionally, January was considered a month that would be relatively slow—because it's just after Christmas and people have spent all their money and they don't have any money to spend," he said in a telephone interview with the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Deets said the relatively good start for the year could be attributed to a number of factors.

"It's been a combination of things…we've seen a lot of Korean customers, people who in the past three or four years ago didn't have any purchasing power, but now they do," he said.

In terms of kind, the 68 vehicles sold by CADA last month were broken down as follows: 25 cars, 19 sport utility vehicles, 11 vans, six trucks, and six others.

Of the three auto dealerships, Triple J Motors recorded a 53.33-percent jump in sales last month to 23 units from the 15 sold in January 2007.

The Beach Road company's sales were buoyed by the six school buses bought by the Public School System last month. Triple J Motors also sold nine cars, seven SUVs, and one van last month.

Microl and Joeten Motors, meanwhile, posted decreases of 3.45 percent and 33.33 percent, respectively, in January 2008.

Microl saw its sales drop to 28 from the 29 units it sold in January 2007. The San Jose auto dealership sold eight cars, three trucks, eight vans, and nine SUVs last month.

Joeten Motors, for its part, saw its unit sales down to 16 from the 24 that customers drove out from its Beach Road showroom and parking lot in January 2007. The company sold eight cars, three trucks, two vans, and three SUVs last month.

"I flew to Saipan to have my cataract surgery"
"When I wanted the best in eye care, I flew to Saipan to have my cataract surgery at Marianas Eye Institute with Dr. David Khorram, one of American's Top Ophthalmologists. I didn't want to waste time waiting for visiting specialists, or go to the expense, inconvenience and time loss of traveling to Hawaii or the Philippines when America's best is right next door on Saipan."
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CUC

From Page 1

remain in existence and that the emergency measures taken pursuant to such declaration must remain in place in order to ensure the safety of the people of the CNMI," he said.

CUC data show that its power plants are generating just 43 percent of their total capacity due to various mechanical problems. The utility is also suffering from serious financial problems, due mainly to the sky-high fuel prices. The cost of fuel has quadrupled in a little over four years—from $25 per barrel in September 2003, to over $100 per barrel on Jan. 3, 2008.

The emergency declaration allows the governor to assume full control of CUC and suspend all regulatory statute provisions and regulations applicable to CUC, including procurement regulations. The governor will also have the power to reprogram all available funds to address CUC's problems.

The Fitial administration blames the Legislature for CUC's lack of funds. In October, the lawmakers enacted by veto override a law reducing power rates for residential customers. The administration warned that the rates would not cover the households' share of CUC's operating costs. This would result in a shortfall in electric revenues estimated at $7.2 million to $8.4 million a year.

In November, the administration adopted regulations to increase the rates in a bid to restore some of the rate cuts. Several lawmakers said the administration's move was illegal. Meanwhile, power rates remain at record-high levels.

TRIBUNE

From Page 1

who has known Pangelinan for over 20 years, described him as "a wonderful, cheerful man" who always made time for family and friends.

Inos also remembered Pangelinan as a hardworking colleague. The pair spent many years as executives of Tan Holdings Corp.

"He will be missed here on Saipan, as well as on Guam," said Inos, who was assisting Pangelinan's family when contacted for a phone interview.

Lynn Knight, THC vice president for corporate affairs, expressed deep sadness about Pangelinan's death.

"I am so grateful to have known JP, who touched my life as a dear friend and colleague. He cared a great deal about his team at *Tribune* and worked hard to make the newspaper the best it can be for the sake of his community. Personally speaking, I have never met a kinder man. I will miss him tremendously," Knight said.

Saipan Tribune editor Jayvee Vallejera echoed Knight, saying that JP was not just a good superior but also a compassionate one, ever mindful of the well-being of his employees and staff. "He took care of his people and that's one of the things that we would always remember him by," he said.

Pangelinan's cousin, Century Insurance Co. Ltd. president David M. Sablan, remembers him as a very kind-hearted and caring individual. He said his cousin always tried and find out what you need and would try his best to accommodate it.

In a nutshell, Uncle Dave said Pangelinan would prefer that he goes hungry than someone else getting hungry.

Uncle Dave said he, Pangelinan, and another cousin—the late Don Pangelinan—were sent to Guam after the Japanese occupation to study elementary in the U.S. territory.

While Sablan went back to Saipan, Pangelinan stayed and went to work at Guam Music. He eventually became a regional representative for an amusement company, Bally Corp., in the mid-1960 to 1970s.

Uncle Dave said that it was during his employment at Bally Corp. that Pangelinan was introduced to Tan Siu Lin and helped the Tan patriarch establish Tan Holdings Corp. on Saipan.

Asked what he would miss most about his cousin, Uncle Dave said he would not forget Pangelinan's occasional visits to his office to talk about personnel matters as well as their regular Sunday brunch dates at Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's Mai Restaurant.

"He always wants the best for his employees and would consult me whenever he can because he knew I have a background in management," he said.

Part of Uncle Dave and Pangelinan's self-described Mai "board of directors" during their Sunday brunch dates is Mt. Carmel Cathedral rector Fr. Ryan Jimenez.

Fr. Ryan said he felt really sad after learning of Pangelinan's passing yesterday afternoon.

"We were really close and it was really a privilege to know him. JP was a very generous man, a really a good man. He was very sincere. He had been through a lot in his personal life, but is not ashamed of his past," he said.

Fr. Ryan said Bishop Camacho told him that when he talked with Pangelinan a couple of weeks ago, he gave the impression that was ready to face his fate.

"JP and [Bishop Camacho] talked. He said JP was really ready. He really died a peaceful death, he knew it was coming and he prepared himself for this…"

Pangelinan took the helm of the *Saipan Tribune* on Dec. 1, 2001. He brought to Saipan Tribune a wealth of experience in management covering administrative, financial and operational matters.

Before joining the newspaper, Pangelinan worked for Tan Holdings for 23 years in various capacities on both Saipan and Guam. He had also served as president of Unity International Corporation on Guam.

Pangelinan was born on Saipan on Oct. 26, 1937.

Funeral arrangements are still being finalized by the family. It will be announced at a later date.

PALMS

From Page 1

Palms Resort Saipan general manager Ray Dela Cruz said that part of the reason Palms Resort decided to donate the birds is to establish a close working relationship with a locally owned zoo business.

According to Dela Cruz, "It's a win-win situation."

He said that Saipan Zoo is willing to take on the cost and provide personnel to care for the exotic birds.

A plan for a petting zoo to be located at the Palms Resort to house some of the donated exotic birds is in the works.

Dela Cruz said that Palms Resort is looking forward to the upcoming petting zoo that is expected to open this summer.

And with that, "We're very happy to work closely with Saipan Zoo," he added.

The birds include five macaws, one white parrot, at least 18 pigeons, one Egyptian goose, 30 ducks, a set of white peacocks, and four cranes.

Aldan said the cost to feed his newly acquired birds will cost $25 dollars a day.

"They don't require much feed, it's our more exotic animals such as the leopard, the lion, the black bear, and the tiger that eat a lot," Aldan said.

Since it first opened in 1996, Aldan said that the Saipan Zoo has become a sanctuary for exotic animals that come in.

"We take extra care of them and we always welcome anybody who wishes to donate their exotic animals to the zoo," he added.

The Saipan Zoo is open to anyone who wishes to visit. There is a local fee of $10 per adult and $5 per child to enter. There is also a tourist fee of $15. For schools that wish to visit, the fee is $3.75 per student.

Aldan said, "We really don't make a lot money. But we really do love our animals."

IRS

From Page 1

issues, may also come to this clinic for help.

The clinic will be held at the U.S. Attorney's Office, third floor of the Horiguchi Building on Saipan, on Feb. 11, 12pm to 5pm, and Feb. 12 through Feb. 15, from 9am to 5pm. An IRS representative will be available to assist individuals with erroneous EITC refund issues and answer related questions

Last year, the U.S. government identified the fraudulent refund scheme involving hundreds of individuals from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, both nonresidents and locals, who filed income tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service requesting U.S. Treasury refund checks, including the Earned Income Tax Credit.

The EITC is a refundable federal income tax credit for low-income working individuals and families. Most CNMI residents are not required to file a tax return with the U.S. IRS and are not eligible to claim the EITC.

The U.S. IRS, the CNMI Division of Revenue and Taxation, and other government agencies collaborated to unravel this fraudulent refund scheme.

The IRS held its first walk-in clinic on Saipan in May 2007. Many CNMI taxpayers knew they were not eligible for the IRS refund.

In December 2007, the IRS sent statutory notices to the individuals who received an EITC refund, but who had not corrected their filing and repaid the refund.

CNMI taxpayers who received improper refunds must file a Form 1040X, Amended U.S. Tax Return, in order to repay the IRS.

Individuals who did not receive the money because their bank froze their account should also file a Form 1040X.

Instructions

To complete form 1040x, amended U.S. tax return, and return erroneous EITC refunds:

- Clearly write on top of the Form 1040X "GUAM-CNMI ERRONEOUS REFUND"
- Fill in your name, current address, and Social Security Number
- Leave columns A and B blank
- Fill in all zeros in column C
- Write the amount you are repaying on Line 21
- On page 2, include the statement "Tax return should not have been filed. I have no U.S. IRS filing requirement." If your bank account was frozen because of an EITC Refund, write "My bank account was frozen because of an erroneous EITC refund."
- Sign the Form 1040X

Send the Form 1040X and payment (if a refund was received) to: Internal Revenue Service, 601 Roosevelt Boulevard - Drop Point N-441, Philadelphia, PA 19154

CNMI residents can also call the IRS at (215) 516-2000 (not a toll free call). Please tell the IRS employee who assists you that you are calling about a "Guam/CNMI Erroneous Refund."

LB tussle is 'just plain gamesmanship'

BIRTHDAY GREETING

Happy 1st birthday to Francisco Dennis Monje Villagomez who is turning 1 year old today, Jan. 6, 2008. Birthday greetings from your parents, Shirley and Frank.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Maria Pangelinan has expressed frustration with the ongoing power struggle between the Senate and House of Representatives over the appointment of a new director for the Legislative Bureau.

"It is, sadly, just another round of political gamesmanship our government has earned a reputation for," said Pangelinan.

The House leadership wants Ed Tenorio, a former special assistant for management and budget, to replace Joaquin Omar as bureau director.

The Senate's choice is LB deputy director Glenna SP Reyes.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes has recused himself from the selection to avoid the appearance of nepotism. Glenna SP Reyes is his wife. Pangelinan, who was appointed to represent the Senate in talks with the House leadership, is the first cousin of the Senate president.

Pangelinan

"The current situation has escalated into a power struggle between the two houses. It defies the spirit of statesmanship and brings into question the non-partisan nature of the Legislative Bureau services, to say nothing of how poorly it plays in the press," said Pangelinan.

She maintained that the debate is not the qualifications of the candidates, but the degree to which politics is driving the process, as well as its eventual effect on the LB's ability to serve lawmakers in a non-political manner.

Pangelinan said the Legislature has several options in the matter. One way to address the problem is to postpone appointing a new director, and allow Omar and Reyes to continue serving as director and deputy director until their contracts expire on Sept. 30, 2008.

She also suggested a compromise: appoint Reyes to serve as director and hire Tenorio as her deputy, with both receiving the same salary.

She added that the Legislature could simply eliminate the deputy position, hire Reyes to be the director with a lower salary, and reduce staff where not needed. "This move would be more in keeping with the reduced amounts of revenue available for the FY2008 budget," she said.

A long-term option, she said, is to eliminate most of the LB positions. She noted that all legislators have a budget to hire their own staff. In many instances, duties are duplicated and government funds are wasted.

Motorist sues driver over Gualo Rai mishap

A motorist filed a lawsuit in federal court yesterday over the injuries he suffered when a car hit his vehicle along Middle Road in Gualo Rai.

Robert Chin Suzuki, through counsel David G. Banes, sued Ming Hua Q. Yoon for negligence.

Suzuki asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order Yoon to pay him damages, interest, and court costs.

Banes stated in the complaint that on Oct. 24, 2007 at 8:10am, Suzuki was driving a 1997 Toyota T-100 pickup truck going south along 2W Highway (Middle Road) in Gualo Rai.

Upon reaching the traffic intersection in Marpac, Yoon, who was driving a 2004 Toyota Camry, suddenly came out from the street by CMS.

Yoon's car failed to yield to the right of way in entering the highway and struck the passenger side of Suzuki's truck.

Banes said the impact pushed Suzuki's vehicle to the southbound inner lane.

Yoon again hit Suzuki's truck on the cab. This caused Suzuki's vehicle to spin around and later stop on the southbound inner lane facing west.

Banes said the force of the impact resulted in injuries to Suzuki and his vehicle being severely damaged.

An ambulance was called and Suzuki was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center.

Banes said the Department of Public Safety investigated the accident and concluded that Yoon was at fault. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

www.marianaslabor.net

The Department of Labor's new website is now available for posting job vacancy announcements by employers, posting resumes by persons seeking employment, and viewing of job vacancy announcements by the general public. Use of the website is free.

If you want to post a JVA, when you go to the website, please register as an employer. Your registration will be promptly reviewed by the Department of Labor. Once, your registration has been approved, you will be able to post job vacancy announcements and review resumes. You need to register only once. Only registered and approved employers are allowed to post JVAs and review posted resumes.

If you want to post a resume, when you go to the website, please register as a prospective employee. Your registration will be reviewed promptly by the Department of Labor. Once your registration has been approved, you will be able to post your resume and reply directly to posted JVAs. You need to register only once. Only registered persons in the community are allowed to post resumes and use the website to reply directly to posted JVAs.

If you want to look at posted job vacancy announcements, just visit the website. Job vacancy announcements are available for viewing by the general public. No registration is required for this purpose. Department of Labor forms and announcements will be also be available to the general public on this website for downloading.

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'Trend in LPG prices is downward'

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Good news for the CNMI's liquefied petroleum gas consumers.

Saipan Industrial Gas Inc. president Diony Lopez believes the price of LPG will decrease some more in the next few months.

"The trend of prices we believe is downward due to extremely unbearable high prices and the possibility of a recession," he said in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Lopez, who the other day said that his company will cut 1 percent from the per lb. price of its product in the next three weeks, said the move was due to its supplier in Guam also bringing down the cost of LPG.

"We received word from our supplier [Shell North Pacific] that prices [in] Guam went down for the month of February. We are adjusting our prices by about $.10 to $.20 per lb. We can only do so after about three weeks when all our inventory of high prices are sold," he added.

And the president of Saipan Industrial Gas believes the rollback will not be confined to LPG products alone.

"We believe that prices of LPG, same as other oil products, are going down. We hope prices will drop some more in the future. Our sales volume actually dropped by about 20 percent last year," he said.

With their LPG price going down, Lopez said expect its competitor, Wushin Corp., to follow suit with its own rollback shortly—and the biggest winner in this are the consumers.

"Real competition in Saipan in the LPG market is working for the benefit of the consumers. LPG prices are reasonable, LPG cylinders are fast changing to Department of Transportation approved-cylinders, LPG storage and refilling [will be] federally approved design and soon we will establish an informal safety group to improve safety."

Saipan Industrial Gas did not disclose how much its LPG products currently retail per lb.

Chinese Association marks 21st anniversary

Lion Dance performances will be held at business establishments across Saipan on Feb. 7, and on Tinian on Feb. 8, Rose Chan, director of the Chinese Association of Saipan, said.

"I would like the people of Saipan and Tinian to watch the Lion Dance. The Chinese Association organizes this event every Chinese New Year," she said.

The performances are scheduled to be held in the morning of Feb. 7 at the following business establishments: Saipan Grand Hotel at 10:30am; Hyatt Regency at 11am; and Fiesta Resort & Spa at 11:30am. An afternoon Lion Dance performance is also scheduled for 3pm the same day at Transpac Business Center in Gualo Rai where Subway, Safety First, Dial Rent-to-Own, and the offices of Burger and Comer and Glimpses of Saipan are located. In the evening a Lion Dance performance will be held at the Street Market in Garapan at 6pm. The Lion Dance performance at Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino is scheduled to be held in the morning of Feb. 8 at 11am.

The celebrations will culminate in a dinner party at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa at 6pm on Feb. 8 where Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, and Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela have been invited to attend as guests of honor, Chan said.

There will be raffle draws at the dinner party, she said. Entry tickets go for $30 each for adults and $15 each for kids under 12 years old.

"I would like to invite the people of Saipan to join us in celebrating the Chinese New Year," Chan said.

Tickets are available at Canton Restaurant on Beach Road in Garapan, and at the reception desk of the dinner party venue.

Chan said the association has planned to make this year's Chinese New Year celebrations memorable to Saipan residents as well as to the Chinese community.

The CAS was organized in 1988. Tan Holdings Corp. president Jerry Tan is the president of the association. Serving as vice presidents are Johnnie Fong, managing director of Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia), Inc., and president of Subway Investments Corp.; and Anna Chan, owner of Double Luck store in Garapan.

The association directors include Ta Bun Kuy, owner of Dollar Days Store, Micro Beach Hotel and Crystal Palace, among others; Antonio Lim, president of TransAmerica Saipan Corp., Linda Lam, owner of Saipan Oceanview Hotel and Modern Stationery; and Rose Chan, owner of Canton Restaurant and Venus Beauty Salon. ***(PR)***

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STADT HAMBURG	V012	2/15 FRI	2/16 SAT	2/21 THU	2/23 SAT	2/26 TUE	2/27 WED	2/29 FRI	3/1 SAT	3/4 TUE
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ASIAN ISLAND	V005	2/29 FRI	3/1 SAT	3/6 THU	3/8 SAT	3/11 TUE	3/12 WED	3/14 FRI	3/15 SAT	3/18 TUE
STADT HAMBURG	V013	3/7 FRI	3/8 SAT	3/13 THU	3/15 SAT	SKIP	3/19 WED	3/21 FRI	3/22 SAT	3/25 TUE
TO BE ANNOUNCED	V017	3/14 FRI	3/15 SAT	3/20 THU	3/22 SAT	3/25 TUE	3/26 WED	3/28 FRI	3/29 SAT	4/1 TUE
ASIAN ISLAND	V006	3/21 FRI	3/22 SAT	3/27 THU	3/29 SAT	SKIP	4/2 WED	4/4 FRI	4/5 SAT	4/8 TUE
STADT HAMBURG	V014	3/28 FRI	3/29 SAT	4/3 THU	4/5 SAT	4/8 TUE	4/9 WED	4/11 FRI	4/12 SAT	4/15 TUE

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Company told to pay OT of 'sleepy' guard

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor has awarded $2,528.16 in unpaid overtime and liquidated damages to a security guard who was found sleeping on duty on more than one occasion at his employer's poker rooms.

Labor Administrative Hearing Officer Herbert D. Soll ordered Jin Ho Corp. to pay Benerando B. Pineda $1,264.08 in unpaid overtime plus liquidated damages in the same amount or for a total of $2,528.16.

Soll gave Pineda 45 days to find another employer.

Soll ruled that it cannot be said that Pineda is more at fault than Jin Ho Corp., which set strenuous schedules for the security guard.

"Security guards are hired to prevent crime and violence from occurring on the employer's premises," the hearing officer said.

Soll pointed out that there is no regulation that limits the hours that a guard may work. But Soll noted that human experience suggests that a person working the hours and days that are reflected in complainant's evidence—10 consecutive days of 12 hours—"would reach a point of exhaustion that is conducive to unavoidable sleep."

Pineda filed his complaint in July 2004 against Jin Ho Corp. and its representatives, Jun Hyang Jin and Soufil Alam.

The complainant was employed as a security guard at the corporation's poker rooms under an employment contract that expired on June 19, 2004.

Preparations had been made to renew Pineda's contract for another year from June 2004 through June 2005, but before the employer could file the contract with Labor, Pineda was found sleeping on duty at one of the corporation's poker rooms.

Soll cited that convincing testimony established that Pineda was observed to be sleeping on the job on more than one occasion toward the end of his contract.

Soll said Pineda denies this, but the testimonies of three witnesses who saw him asleep were accepted as "being accurate and truthful."

The employer believed that the guard was sleeping on the job and it had the right not to renew Pineda's contract for another year.

Soll agreed. He said the fact that the renewal had been signed before the sleeping incident took place does not bind the respondent "to the inchoate contract that had not yet been filed with Labor."

Soll said Pineda's failure to not fulfill all of the obvious requirements of his position is not as culpable as it may seem when the long hours of employment are considered.

Nevertheless, he said, it is reasonable to expect a security guard to be awake while on duty and Pineda's sleeping was a supportable reason to not follow through on a renewal.

On the overtime issue, Penida was asked to forego overtime wages to which he was entitled for the months of May in both 2003 and 2004.

Soll said the reason given for this action was the employer's need to pay licenses on poker machines.

"If the complainant refused to comply with this request it was suggested that he might lose his job because of possible business closure," Soll said.

The hearing officer pointed out that Pineda is not a stockholder in the corporation and that he cannot be asked to give up wages because the employer's need to pay license fees.

"This was an entirely illegal and inappropriate action on the part of the respondent. The fact that the complainant agreed to forego the wages is immaterial. They must be paid," Soll said.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy birthday to Lisa Sablan! May God continue to bless you for all the great things you do. Have a great day and always remember how much we all love and cherish you! From your loving children and grand-children

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy 15th birthday going out to Conseco John P. Arurang. We will always love you very much. Greetings coming from your parents, your two handsome brothers, and also the rest of the familia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Head to Tinian for hot pepper fest

The annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival will be held this year on Feb. 16 and 17 at Tachonga Beach on Tinian.

The festival, which is an island-style fiesta showcasing different kinds of locally prepared foods as well as arts and crafts, always draws a big crowd. One of the highlights is the Hot Pepper eating contest, which will take place on both days of the festival.

Competitive events this year will include the Katdun Pika, which is where chefs compete for the tastiest local version of spicy chicken, the Hermit Crab Race, the Dragon Boat Rowing where teams of 12 race, beach volleyball, the best booth contest, mwarmwar making, a karaoke contest and the "Do the Cha-Cha Dance."

This year new entertainment joins the festival. The "Ukulele Whiz Kid," Ryan Imamura, a 13-year-old boy from Guam, will perform at the festival.

The famous hot pepper of Tinian. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

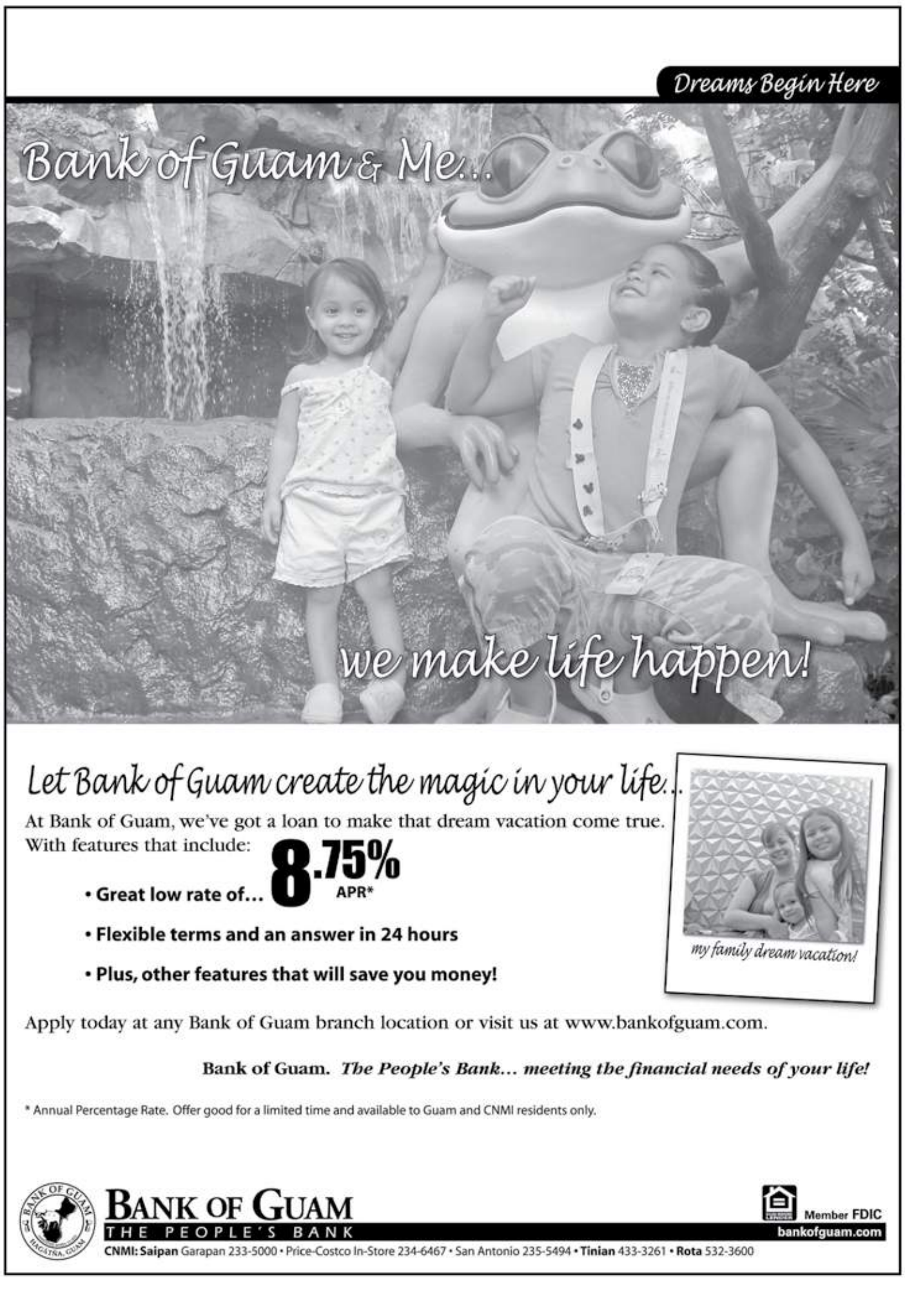
The schedule of events for Saturday includes an opening program and the official kickoff of the festival at 1pm. That will be followed by the judging of the booths, cultural dancing and the "Ukulele Whiz Kid" performance. The karaoke competition will also take place beginning on Saturday. The first day of festivities ends at 10pm.

On Sunday, start the day with the cultural dancers at 10am as well as the mwarmwar contest. Fiesta-goers can watch the rowing teams compete in the Dragon Boat Rowing Contest on Sunday as well as the Katdun Pika contest, volleyball and another round of the "Do the Cha Cha contest."

"This signature event showcases Tinian at its best," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "The cultural experience combined with all the festivities make this a "must attend" event on Tinian."

If you are traveling from Saipan, Taga Air and Freedom Air fly to Tinian. You may also consider the ferry for transportation to and from Tinian.

This year's event is sponsored by the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Tinian Mayor's Office and Bridge Investment Group. ***(MVA)***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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

FEBRUARY 6, 2001

'Observe overtime restrictions'

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio directed all CNMI government agencies to strictly observe cost-cutting measures implemented in financial year 1998, following the recent discovery of excessive amounts of Compensatory Time Off. Compensatory Time Off comes in a form of leave-with-pay made to government employees for work rendered beyond the legally-allowed 80-hour per pay period.

CHC pays GHLIP debts to 2 Hawaii hospitals

The Commonwealth Health Center's Medical Referral Office settled on behalf of the Group Health and Life Insurance more than $1.1 million debts, incurred by its subscribers' off-island medical treatments, to two Hawaii-based hospitals. GHLIP Manager Dolores Moore disclosed Medical Referral Office paid Straub Clinic and Hospital at least $443,958.86 and Queen's Medical Center with $773,212.03.

20th Flame Tree Arts Festival set

Following the dismal attendance of spectators and participants of last year's Flame Tree Arts Festival, officials of the Commonwealth Council for the Arts and Culture moved back the holding of the biggest festival to April. Arts Council officials are now soliciting participation from interested individuals and groups to sign up and register as preparations are being mapped out to ensure the success of the 20th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival.

FEBRUARY 6, 2002

Test: Students with pre-school background are better readers

The Public School System has stumbled upon hard evidence that bared the benefits of pre-school programs--Kindergarten and Headstart--among incoming first graders. Results of the first Reading Diagnostic Test conducted on public school first grade students, in part, revealed data that showed students who attended Kindergarten did significantly better than students who had no prior schooling. Children who went to Headstart, likewise, did significantly better than students without a pre-schooling experience, records showed.

Legislator: Review local workforce requirement

Are private companies in the CNMI conforming to the 20-percent requirement in hiring local workers? That is a question that Rep. Martin B. Ada wants answered, even as he batted for the increased employment of the local population. The 20-percent requirement makes it mandatory for private companies to ensure that at least 20 percent of their workforce is composed of local workers. In yesterday's session at the House of Representatives, Ada related that a number of lawmakers have been flooded lately by unemployed locals who are seeking their help to find jobs in the private sector.

New tax on poker machines mulled

The Tinian Legislative Delegation is now planning to levy an additional $2,000 local tax on poker machines on Tinian as a means to fund two projects on the island. Senate Fiscal Affairs Chair Sen. Jose M. Dela Cruz yesterday said the Tinian delegation is considering the passage of a local law that would assess an additional $2,000 local tax on poker machines, except on the ones inside the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

FEBRUARY 6, 2003

War talks sending tourism jitters

With Hotel Nikko Saipan posting an occupancy rating of about 80-90 percent at the start of 2003, its new president and chief executive officer is optimistic that the surge in tourist traffic in the CNMI could be sustained, barring a war in Iraq. Shinji Nakamura, who took over as the hotel's GM in July last year, said that, despite Japan's depressed economy, the Japanese are going to continue traveling outside the country for vacations and tours, which he claims is good for the CNMI.

NMC mulls Nauru Bldg expansion

The Northern Marianas College is looking at the possibility of acquiring the Nauru building as part of the college's expansion program. "We're looking at various options in our efforts to acquire new facilities. One is the possible use of the Nauru building," NMC president Kenneth Wright said yesterday.

IN MEMORIAM

John "JP" Pangelinan

1937 – 2008

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press
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EDITORIAL

Killing Kenya

Melitus Mugabe Were was a rarity among Kenyan politicians, a moderate who straddled the divides rending the country. A freshman lawmaker in parliament, he was a man who could have mediated between extremists in both the ruling party and the opposition, those who are fueling the violence that has left about 800 people dead in the past month and wrecked the infrastructure that turned Kenya into one of Africa's most promising and prosperous democracies.

He could have, that is, if thugs hadn't pulled up beside his Mercedes as he stopped at the gate in front of his Nairobi home last week, dragged him out of his car and pumped bullets into his eye and heart. He had just turned 39.

Kenya's problems have roots that go much deeper than a spat between rival parties. When President Mwai Kibaki was re-elected Dec. 27 in a tally riddled with fraud and other irregularities, it touched off a tribal and class conflict that had been simmering for years. Kibaki is a member of the dominant Kikuyu tribe, which makes up about 22 percent of the population but enjoys a disproportionate share of the country's land, wealth and political power. The other 40-odd tribes have long resented the Kikuyu, especially the Kalenjin and Luo, who feel they were victimized by an unequal land distribution policy during the colonial period that benefited the Kikuyu. Opposition party leader Raila Odinga is a Luo (as was the father of Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama, prompting Odinga to complain that Americans would elect a Luo president before Kenyans would).

Were was a member of the Luhya tribe from Odinga's opposition party. Yet he rejected the tribal politics that have prompted other Kenyan leaders, including both Kibaki and Odinga, to incite their followers to further violence, telling supporters not to join in the ongoing protests of the election results. A successful, Italian-educated entrepreneur who built a small soccer stadium in the Nairobi slum where he was born and founded a home for AIDS orphans, he was married to a Kikuyu woman and seemed a living embodiment of a future when ethnicity would cease to define Kenyans. Ironically, his murder was used to promote yet more violence, with Odinga implying that the killing was a political assassination by his adversaries. At least seven people died in the subsequent riots; the slaying of another opposition lawmaker two days later sparked more uprisings.

One of the tragedies of a deeply divided society like Kenya's is that when the shooting starts, the peacemakers and moderates are often the first to fall. Kibaki and Odinga have both amply demonstrated that they're unfit to run the country, but for now, its best hope is that they can agree to some sort of power-sharing arrangement. In Kenya's immature democracy, the demagogues are in charge; someday they'll give way to people more like Were. If any survive.

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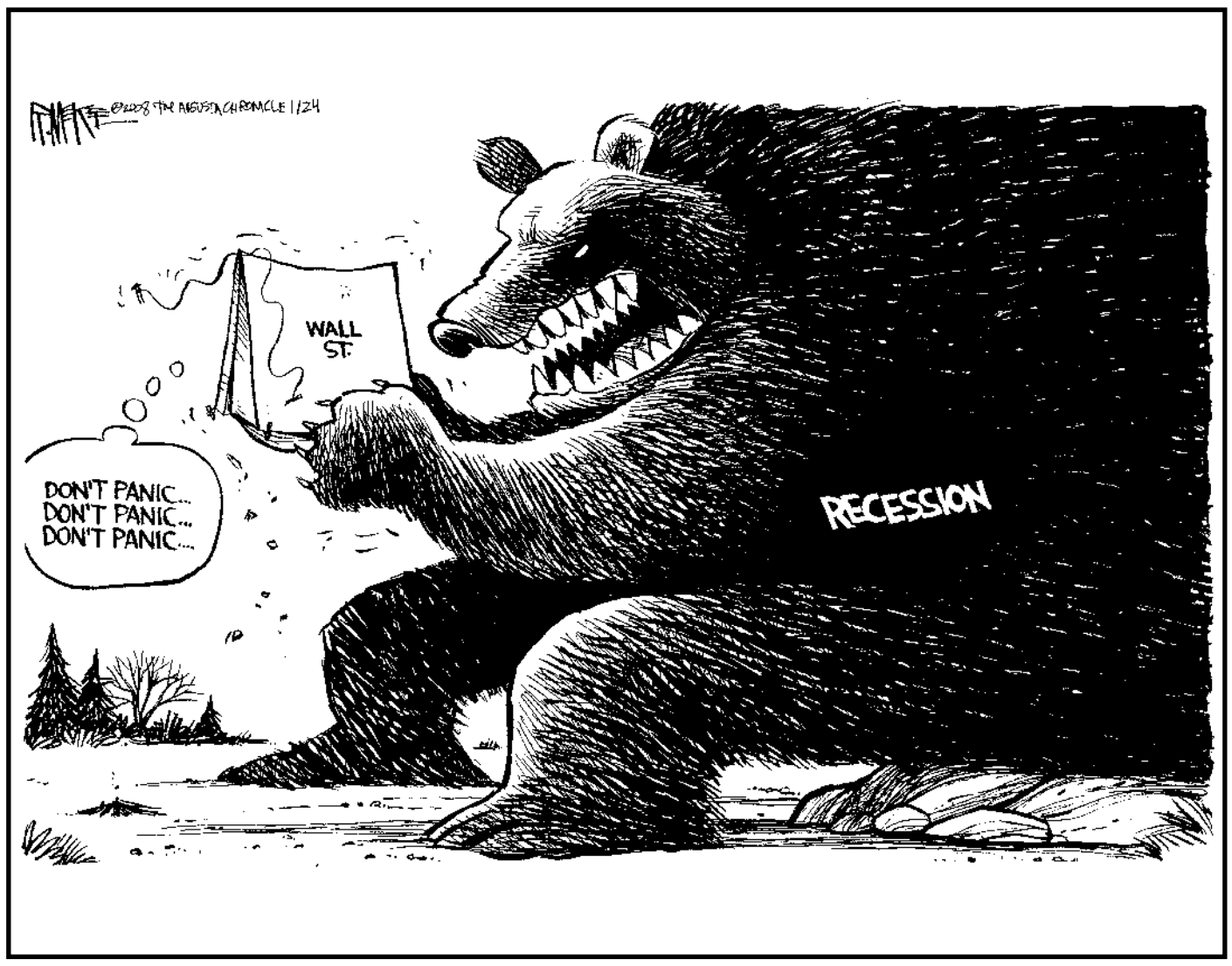

Growing Chinese influence in the US economy

Times have changed

First of a two-part series

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.

Many islanders interested in the Pacific region have watched in amazement at the phenomenal economic growth of the People's Republic of China over the past 20 years or so. The MVA is looking at the country and its growing affluent population of young adults as a market for the islands' tourist sector. That's a good thing.

I don't normally discuss books in this column but for those interested in the Asian economy of the 21st century I recommend two interesting books, *The World Is Flat* by Thomas Friedman and *China Candid* by Ye Sang. These books will provide a background on the PRC's growing influence on the world scene and the United States economy in particular. China alone has a population of 1.2 billion people and a fast developing economy and a growing and affluent market for many consumer products.

That stated, there is a fascinating article in the January issue of the *Atlantic Magazine* by economist and national correspondent, James Fallows titled, "The $1.4 Trillion Question." Before I go any further, let's look at this stupendous sum. The enormity of a trillion dollars is almost impossible for the average person to conceive. It is an astronomical, thousand billions ($1,000,000,000,000). That's a lot!

To maintain a degree of perspective the U.S. population is 301 million, a fraction of that of China, with the U.S. national debt of a mind numbing $9 trillion, prompting U.S. Sen. John D. Rockefeller (D. W.Va.) to state, "We have a government that has no money." The United States has seriously eroded its international financial standing as a result of its trade and account deficit, which are sustained only because foreign entities such as China purchase U.S. stocks, bonds and other assets.

Mr. Fallow's thought-provoking observations in the above *Atlantic* article regarding the possible rationale influencing the monetary policy of the Chinese economy is a subject, I dare say, few have pondered at any great length except those within the hallowed halls of the U.S. Treasury, the Federal Reserve, various bank board members, and a few professors of the dismal science of economics.

The former editor of the *Atlantic* and *U.S. News and World Report* advances the interesting thesis that Chinese leaders are intentionally keeping the standard of living low among their nation's population, which has the opposite effect of supporting a higher standard of living for the people of the United States and its consumption driven economy and society.

His belief is based on the huge imbalance in trade the United States maintains with China—in their favor, of course. This imbalance amounts to more than $1.4 trillion and is growing daily by $1 billion. Much of this huge sum is invested by the Chinese government in U.S. Treasury notes and other instruments and stock purchases in some of America's leading financial institutions.

Americans have been enjoying a higher standard of living than they can afford which is a result of consuming more than is produced domestically. By contrast, China's population has a lower standard of living than they might otherwise have, which is the result when a country consumes only around half of its total national production.

With the growing economic difficulties surfacing within the American economy manifested in the outsourcing of jobs; the subprime housing debacle and pending crisis; U.S. consumer debt at an all-time high; dependence on imported energy, inflationary pressure, etc., all could combine to eventually convince the Chinese government's banking authorities to move away from U.S. securities and Treasury notes in particular and move their wealth out of declining dollar values into stronger currencies such as the euro. As the Chinese premier stated last year, "We are concerned about preserving the purchasing power of the dollars we hold."

When the dollar is weak, fuel, food and the cost of imports increase while the value of American assets decline. Interest rates increase, taxes are often higher and many commodities including gold are more expensive. The only good to come from a weak dollar is that American exports are cheaper for foreign consumers to purchase (as also are vacations in the Northern Marianas). But with so many U.S. manufacturing jobs already lost to China—that country now manufactures domestically many of the items previously "Made In the U.S.A", thus limiting what American manufacturers have to sell to Chinese consumers, except for jet aircraft, advanced medical equipment and other big ticket items.

The opposite is true when the U.S. dollar is strong: The price of just about everything declines—fuel, groceries, imported manufactured goods—even gold becomes cheaper. Housing, and other assets increase in value. Interest rates decline for loans and other

See GROWING on next page

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Reality reconstruction: Are you ready?

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

Considering pursuing your passion? Interested in launching your own business? Setting a challenging life goal? Intent on stimulating a national economy? Congratulations, and best of success to you! I would be remiss, however, if I didn't prepare you for some of the consequences of the path you're about to embark upon. If what you are considering is something that will take you to places others are afraid to journey, then there is going to be a price to pay for acting on ideas that go against the norm. In addition to the ridicule and rejection you may face from friends and family, there will also be some cosmic forces at work which may seem to be blocking you.

Many of us don't recognize how the universe works. Here's an illustration: if you are living in a house and wish to build a bigger better house, it may be necessary to demolish the existing house down to its foundation before you start building anew. In much the same way, once this creative universe we live in gets its orders from you that you want to change your reality, mysterious forces are set in motion that begin making the necessary changes in your life. If you've been living with people who think negatively and are going nowhere in their lives, you may find yourselves arguing more frequently. Or it may suddenly dawn on you that a person whom you thought you knew, has grown in an entirely different direction from where you now find yourself. You may have to make some hard decisions about who to keep with you on your journey, and who to leave by the roadside. If not, these individuals may hold you back from reaching your dreams. Go on without them, and if later you decide you still want their friendship, you can always come back and get them.

Similarly, if you've found yourself in a nowhere job, and you wish for the fulfillment and freedom of pursuing your passion, don't be surprised if things start happening which lead to a (forced or voluntary) separation from your present place of employment.

These strange forces which first appear to be creating chaos in your life are part a phenomenon I call "reality reconstruction," and it usually happens right after a new reality is wished for and committed to in a significant way.

I witnessed this phenomenon firsthand in one of my business ventures several years ago. Within a few days of signing someone into my network marketing business, some "catastrophe" would invariably befall them. It might have been an illness, a fight with a spouse, a car accident, or some seemingly random event. At first I thought I was jinxed, or worse, that I was jinxing my new business partners. I soon came to realize, however, exactly what was going on: their realities were being reconstructed.

We live in a receptive and constructive universe that responds to our thoughts. When you say you want a better life, visualize and set goals accordingly, things naturally start to happen to bring you the life you desire. (Really! It's true!) What happens, however, is that most people miss the clues, and interpret the ensuing chaos, tension, stress, turmoil, strained relationships, disagreements, disappointments, betrayals and lack of support from those we love as an indication that they've made a bad decision. Or worse, they fail to see the connection the new way of thinking is having on relationships and environment, and get distracted putting out these seemingly unexpected, and unrelated fires in their lives.

Interestingly, "reality reconstruction" doesn't affect everyone to the same degree. Some people meet their dreams at a point in life after they've gone through the necessary preparation and personal growth. For those people, it can be a smooth transition into their dreams. However, of those it does affect, many fall by the wayside, overwhelmed by the unexpected changes in life, while others see it and embrace it for what it is, a reality reconstruction in progress.

The reality reconstruction that ensues by following a passion can mean ups and downs, uncertainty of regular income, having to make late payments, having your lights turned off, having your telephone disconnected, and maybe even homelessness. I recall the months where I was basically homeless and living on my friend's couch and running my business from his living room. I knew that this was a temporary reality that I needed to experience to get to the success on the other side. Nothing motivates like desperation. And for some of us, experiencing dire straits is the only way we'll ever develop the inner strength to really do what's necessary to succeed as entrepreneurs. Are you prepared for any of the possible reconstructive realities that you may experience while you build your life anew?

I know of people who say they could never go through those kinds of experiences. If they happen to be married with children, they add that being single would make such changes easier. In response, I encourage people not to let their reason for doing a thing be their excuse for not doing it. In other words, many people crave the Passion Profit Life-style so they can spend more time with their children, but use the "responsibility" of providing for their children as the reason for not taking the risk to succeed.

I know of one woman with three children and a husband who quit her high-paying job to pursue her passion of being a writer. She ended up homeless and on public assistance (kids, husband and all) just before her big break--a six-figure publishing contract--came along. She didn't let the downs get her down, and she realized that all things "come to pass." That is, they have come so that they can pass... (IF you gain the lessons they bring with them). She knew that sunshine follows the rain; that there's always the seed of victory within every defeat; and that sometimes it's necessary to hit bottom, before you can bounce back up.

So, as we move forward as individuals, as nations, and as a world community; and as we embrace the new buzzword of "change" as the platform of the new leadership, let us remember that change comes with a few challenges of reconstruction. If we are prepared for these ups and downs, we will have a better attitude, more realistic expectations, and consequently a better chance of achieving the goals we've set for ourselves!!

To build a better life, my friend
here's something that I've found
things might just get a little worse
before they turn around.

The reason is you've spent your life
constructing woes and troubles
In breaking down those structures
you'll find chaos often doubles

The fights increase, the tension mounts
close friends you may estrange
The world you've made is falling
so some things are bound to change

The thoughts you keep have shifted
and so too whom you attract
Let all the players clear the stage
make way for life's new act

You'll face this choice in life
each time you go against the grain:
Let go and risk it all,
or seek my comfort in the pain?

If better's what you seek
then face life's turmoil without fear
The reconstruction crisis
is a signal change is near!

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit*. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com*

Letter to the Editor

Enough with the travels!

Once again the BOE makes the news: $142,000 on 141 trips in four years. That's a lot of traveling that could be better spent on improvements for the schools.

Seems as if the government really isn't broke if they can afford all of this traveling. Who possibly benefited from all of these expensive trips? Quite possibly, the travelers themselves. I find it rather difficult to fathom that these trips really helped our economy or even our school system. And...I'm still waiting to hear about the audit on the MPLA: the gold medal winner for self-enriching travel junkets.

Please Governor Fitial: Put an end to all this travel by lawmakers, boards, department heads, and the connected. There appears to be no oversight. Are all these people allowed to take trips with no appreciable oversight or conscience? And all the other travel junkets not headlined in the news: What about those? If a limit were placed on one or two trips a year for department heads, if oversight were initiated on all government travel, if these travelers had to pay some of the expenses out of pocket...maybe we could use all of that saved money for something useful. No. It won't happen.

It appears that despite almost daily articles illustrating abuse of traveling by government officials, no one seems to care enough to do anything about it. We'll just continue to read about wasted money by government travel junkies for foolish, wasteful junkets. Where did the honesty go? Speaking of honesty: Kudos to Tina Sablan for returning unused monies from her campaign coffers. Hmmmm...what about all of the other candidates?? We need more honest legislators like Tina, who will do the right thing. And less legislators who pass a lot of useless bills and allow our tax monies to be used for foolish purposes or self-enriching gains.

Bill Weiss
Puerto Rico, Saipan

GROWING

From Page 10

debt. However the down side is that U.S. exports (including vacations to the islands from Asia and elsewhere) become more expensive for those who must pay in dollars.

The manufacturer of Mr. Coffee, the coffee maker promoted by America's national sports icon, Joe DiMaggio, has moved their manufacturing facilities to China, along with thousands of other producers of recognizable household named products.

You may have read or heard where U.S. economic policymakers have been complaining about China's undervalued yuan, which currently makes U.S. exports to the PRC more expensive, thus serving to effectively reduce the volume of U.S. exports and, as a result, resulting in fewer jobs for U.S. workers in some industries. Conversely, an increase in the value of the yuan would make Chinese exports to the U.S. of consumer products more expensive for the American public.

If you have been following the current high and low financial roller coaster in the U.S., Asian and European stock markets, when you cut through all the political hype being directed at us from the U.S. Congress, it all boils down to their collective, long-term insomnia of being "asleep at the switch."

With all the advisors and resources available at their disposal, Congress should have seen the developing mess with the subprime debacle in the housing market coming—and the resulting meltdown which is nothing more than a direct result of their failure to watch the backrooms and boardrooms of the banking sector early on as their policies became evident in manipulating the economy. They should have more closely monitored predatory usury abuses in the credit card industry. Congress should have been able to assess the impact of outsourcing America's manufacturing base and the resulting unemployment.

They should have seen the long-term result of their continued failure to make the United States energy independent, a need which was first made obvious almost 35 years ago in 1973. They should have realized the harmful effects of deficit spending and the resulting U.S. debt of trillions of dollars. And on and on with an inexcusable litany of collective political and economic neglect, including neglect of the nation's crumbling infrastructure, free trade policies which, more often than not is not free trade at all but in reality one way trade, with inflation running at 4 percent and expected to go higher. Using a modified cliché "the buck must stop somewhere,"it follows that it must stop with the United States Congress and by extension the Federal Reserve for failure to do their job in protecting the American economy.

They failed to put out the fire at the first sign of smoke.

To be continued.

The Weather

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲82° ▼75°	▲82° ▼76°	▲82° ▼76°	▲82° ▼75°	▲82° ▼75°

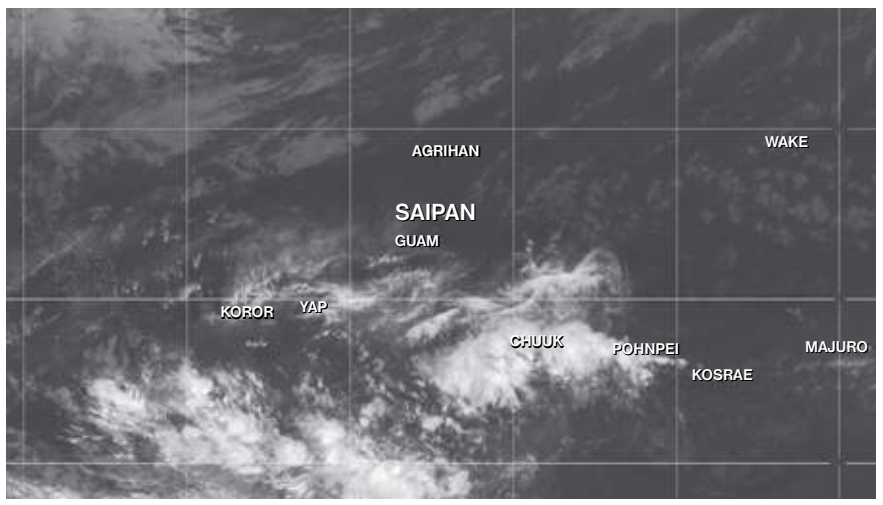
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼73
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼75
Majuro	Cloudy	▲85	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼57
Beijing	Sunny	▲34	▼16
Hong Kong	Showers	▲57	▼50
Honolulu	Showers	▲77	▼68
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲50	▼39
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼44
Manila	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼74
Melbourne	Windy	▲73	▼56
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼67
New York	Rain	▲63	▼36
Osaka	Cloudy	▲43	▼30
Paris	Cloudy	▲49	▼42
Pusan	Sunny	▲42	▼23
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲58	▼38
Salem	Rain	▲44	▼38
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲57	▼45
Seoul	Sunny	▲33	▼16
Tokyo	Showers	▲45	▼34
Washington, DC	Rain	▲67	▼41

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, FEB. 5, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Well south of the Marianas an area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms stretches from 3N to 9N between 144E and near Pohnpei at 159E. This area has been slowly drifting to the west within an enhanced area of trade-wind convergence in these same latitudes and east of Pohnpei to the dateline. Weaker convergence is helping to develop mostly scattered showers with only a few embedded thunderstorms. This area includes the island of Kosrae and the southern Marshalls south of Majuro. Another area of scattered showers and isolated convection is located south of Palau and Yap primarily south of 5N between 130E and 145E. This is in response to weak low-level troughing and convergence in the trade-wind flow as it turns southward into the southern hemisphere summer monsoon along the northern portion of the area. A shear line extends southwestward from 25N155E to 18N140E to 17N130E. Patchy low-level clouds and scattered light showers are seen along and up to 200 miles northwest of this line elsewhere. High pressure dominates in the strong trade-wind flow. Patchy areas of trade-wind showers can be seen drifting westward throughout Micronesia between 10N and 20N.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
01:18AM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
08:23AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
01:41PM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
06:33PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:45AM	6:17PM
Thursday	6:45AM	6:17PM
Friday	6:45AM	6:18PM
Saturday	6:44AM	6:18PM
Sunday	6:44AM	6:19PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	05:55AM	05:28PM
Thursday	06:39AM	06:24PM
Friday	07:21AM	07:18PM
Saturday	08:00AM	08:12PM
Sunday	08:39AM	09:06PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 2, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota				
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7	
Saipan-Guam				
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily	
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6	
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7	via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily	
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily	
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	
Saipan-Narita				
NW 078	8:25am	1:30pm	Daily via Nagoya	
NW 075	4:50pm	7:30pm	Daily	
Saipan-Osaka				
NW 083	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily	
Saipan-Nagoya				
NW 078	8:25am	11:05am	Daily	
Saipan-Manila				
CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6	
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3	
Saipan-Seoul				
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1	
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7	
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7	
Saipan-Busan				
OZ 608	4:00am	7:35am	1,4,5,7	
Saipan-Guanzhou				
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6	
Saipan-Shanghai				
MU 590	4:20am	7:00am	2,6	
Saipan-Beijing				
CA 988	3:15am	7:00am	1,5	
Guam-Manila				
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror	
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6	
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7	
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror	
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily	
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7	
Guam-Hongkong				
CO 909	7:45pm	10:40pm	1,5	
Guam-Rota				
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6	

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan				
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6	
Guam-Saipan				
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily	
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily	
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6	via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7	
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily	
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily	
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily	
Narita-Saipan				
NW 076	10:35am	3:05pm	Daily	
NW 077	6:15pm	1:10am+1	Daily via Nagoya	
Osaka-Saipan				
NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily	
Nagoya-Saipan				
NW 077	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily	
Manila-Saipan				
CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6	
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3	
Seoul-Saipan				
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7	
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7	
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6	
Busan-Saipan				
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7	
Guanzhou-Saipan				
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5	
Shanghai-Saipan				
MU 589	8:05pm	3:00am+1	1,5	
Beijing-Saipan				
CA 987	6:05pm	1:55am+1	4,7	
Manila-Guam				
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7	
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6	
CO 892	9:45pm	5:25am+1	3 via Koror	
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap	
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror	
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily	
PR 110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7	
Hongkong-Guam				
CO 910	11:40pm	6:20am+1	1,5	
Rota-Guam				
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7	

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

Oil prices up

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil futures rose Monday after the government reported strong data on factory orders, giving investors some hope that the economy will dodge a recession that would curtail demand for energy.

The Commerce Department said factory orders jumped by 2.3 percent in December, more than analysts expected. Oil prices jumped on the news.

"(Factories are) an area that is very energy-intensive," said Phil Flynn, an analyst at Alaron Trading Corp. in Chicago.

Despite Monday's gains, analysts caution that the oil market's overall tone remains negative. Friday's Labor Department report that employers cut payrolls by 17,000 jobs last month, the first reduction in more than four years, continues to weigh on investors minds, analysts said. That report pushed prices down by more than $2 on Friday.

Light, sweet crude for March delivery rose $1.06 to settle at $90.02 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Bush budget would bring record deficits

By ANDREW TAYLOR
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The record $3.1 trillion budget proposed by President Bush on Monday would produce eyepopping federal deficits, despite his attempts to impose politically wrenching curbs on Medicare and eliminate scores of popular domestic programs.

The Pentagon would receive a $36 billion, 8 percent boost for the 2009 budget year beginning Oct. 1, even as programs aimed at the poor would be cut back or eliminated. Half of domestic Cabinet departments would see their budgets cut outright.

Slumping revenues and the cost of an economic rescue package will combine to produce a huge jump in the deficit to $410 billion this year and $407 billion in 2009, the White House says, just shy of the record $413 billion set four years ago.

But even those figures are optimistic since they depend on rosy economic forecasts and leave out the full costs of the war in Iraq. The White House predicts the economy will grow at a 2.7 percent clip this year, far higher than congressional and private economists expect, and the administration's $70 billion figure for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan is simply a placeholder until the next president takes office.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Stocks decline as investors mull economy

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street retrenched Monday, closing sharply lower as investors showed their cautious side and cashed in profits from the market's best week in nearly five years. The Dow Jones industrial average fell more than 100 points. The Dow fell 108.03, or 0.85 percent, to 12,635.16. Broader stock indicators also lost ground. The S&P 500 index fell 14.60, or 1.05 percent, to 1,380.82, and the Nasdaq fell 30.51, or 1.26 percent, to 2,382.85. The Dow is 10.8 percent below its record close of 14,164.53 from Oct. 9, but is up 8.6 percent from the 15-month lows it hit in January.

Factory orders up in December

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. factories saw demand for their products rise in December by the largest amount in five months, a spot of welcome news that failed to change the picture of an economy struggling to stay afloat. The Commerce Department reported Monday that orders placed with U.S. factories rose by 2.3 percent in December. That was an improvement from the 1.7 percent gain posted in November and marked the biggest increase since July. The performance in December was slightly better than the 2 percent rise that economists were forecasting.

Fed survey: Banks tightening credit

WASHINGTON (AP)—Many U.S. banks have made it harder for creditworthy borrowers to get a mortgage, according to a Federal Reserve survey released Monday that underscored the spread of a painful credit crunch. "About 55 percent of domestic respondents indicated that they had tightened their lending standards on prime mortgages," the Fed survey said. That was up from about 40 percent in a previous survey released in November. About 60 percent of domestic banks responding to the survey indicated that they had tightened their lending standards for approving applications for revolving home equity lines of credit over the past three months, the Fed said.

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Nation

Candidates race to Super Tuesday finale

WASHINGTON (AP)—Buoyed by cheering crowds and bolstered by more than $1.3 million a day in TV ads, Democrats Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton raced through the final hours of a Super Tuesday campaign across 22 states. Mitt Romney made a late, possibly last appeal to conservatives to derail Republican front-runner John McCain on the busiest day in primary history.

"We're going to hand the liberals in our party a little surprise," boasted Romney, the former Massachusetts governor, predicting he would score an upset in delegate-rich California.

McCain projected confidence Monday, not only about wrapping up the nomination but about next November's general election as well. "I can lead this nation and motivate all Americans to serve a cause greater than their self-interest," he said while campaigning at a fire station in New Jersey.

The Democrats were spending unprecedented amounts of money on television advertising. Records showed Obama and Clinton each spent $1.3 million last Wednesday and have been increasing their purchases in the days since.

Obama spent about $250,000 to run a 30-second ad during the Super Bowl in selected, less expensive regions. Clinton bought one hour of time on the Hallmark Channel for Monday evening to air a live town hall meeting from New York.

The prize in each race was a huge cache of delegates on the biggest primary-season day ever.

In all, there are 1,023 delegates to the Republican National Convention at stake in primaries in 15 states, caucuses in five and the West Virginia state convention.

AP

Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., bends to whisper in the ear of Molly McGovern, 6, as her father, Rep. James McGovern, D-Mass., introduces her at a rally for Clinton at Clark University in Worcester, Mass. Monday, Feb. 4, 2008, in the final campaign push before Super Tuesday.

Report faults security at US monuments

WASHINGTON (AP)—Inadequate security has left national icons such as the Washington Monument and the Statue of Liberty vulnerable, according to a government report on the U.S. Park Police released Monday.

The Interior Department's inspector general accuses the Park Police of an "overall lack of commitment to its icon security responsibilities," citing chronic understaffing along with a lack of coordination and training.

"We found that despite having increased security and law enforcement responsibilities since the events of September, 11, 2001, USPP's staffing levels are lower now than they were 6 years ago," the report states.

David Barna, a spokesman for the National Park Service, which includes the Park Police, said the service takes the report seriously. But he said some of the claims are untrue.

Scout held without bail

TOWSON, Md. (AP)—Nicholas Browning walked into the small cinderblock room, sat on a plastic chair and folded his hands in front of him, an ordinary suburban teenager - except for the orange prison jumpsuit.

When District Judge Barbara Jung asked, via a closed-circuit video link between the Baltimore County courthouse and the detention center, whether the 15-year-old Boy Scout understood the charges he was facing for the deaths of his father, mother and two brothers, Browning answered "Yes, I do," and "Yes, ma'am" in a strong, clear voice.

Not much else is understood about the killings of four members of what seemed to be a normal, well-to-do family.

Authorities said Nicholas Browning shot his sleeping family with one of his father's handguns Friday, then tossed the weapon in some bushes and left. They said he returned a day later to stage the discovery of their deaths.

Police said he confessed to the slayings Sunday and was charged with four counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of John, 45; Tamara, 44; Gregory, 13, and Benjamin, 11.

ACROSS THE NATION

Monson named new Mormon president

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Thomas S. Monson, a leader who became known for his folksy storytelling as he ascended through church ranks, was introduced Monday as the 16th president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Monson, 80, succeeds Gordon B. Hinckley, who died last month at age 97. Out of respect for the deceased president, the Mormon church never names a successor until after funeral services. Hinckley was buried Saturday. Monson was formally chosen Sunday and ordained in a private ceremony inside the Salt Lake Temple.

Missing Lake Tahoe skiers found

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Two skiers who disappeared near Lake Tahoe during a winter storm were rescued Monday morning after they burrowed into snow caves and huddled together for warmth, authorities said. The two men, described as expert skiers, were spotted by the crew of a Placer County Sheriff's Department helicopter about seven miles from the Alpine Meadows ski resort, just west of Lake Tahoe. Patrick Frost, 35, and Christopher Gerwig, 32, both of San Francisco, were taken to Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital, where spokeswoman Janice Davis said they had suffered "really minor, minor" frostbite.

Judge: Navy not exempt from sonar ruling

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Navy must follow environmental laws placing strict limits on sonar training that opponents argue harms whales, despite President Bush's decision to exempt it, a federal judge ruled Monday. The Navy is not "exempted from compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act" and a court injunction creating a 12 nautical-mile no-sonar zone off Southern California, U.S. District Judge Florence-Marie Cooper wrote in a 36-page decision. Navy spokeswoman Lt. Cmdr. Cindy Moore said the military was studying the decision.

Astronauts ready for Thursday launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—Seven astronauts returned to NASA's launch site Monday to take a new shot at flying space shuttle Atlantis to the international space station. Liftoff is set for Thursday afternoon, with NASA wrapping up a last repair Sunday night involving a radiator hose. Atlantis will carry the European Space Agency's science lab, Columbus, to the orbiting outpost. The largest lab of all, Japan's Kibo, or Hope, will be carried up in sections beginning next month.

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Asia

Philippine House speaker ousted

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Lawmakers ousted the powerful leader of the House of Representatives early Tuesday in a vote he alleged was orchestrated by former ally President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo because his son linked her husband to a corruption scandal.

Arroyo's dominant allies removed Jose de Venecia, the longest-serving House speaker in Philippine history, in a nationally televised session that extended to the early hours of the morning and highlighted a dangerous crack in her political coalition.

De Venecia served as House speaker for 12 years and became one of Arroyo's most trusted allies. He led lawmakers in crushing three opposition attempts to impeach her on allegations of vote-rigging, corruption and human rights abuses.

AP

Beleaguered Lower House Speaker Jose De Venecia gestures as he delivers a sharp criticism on Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's government at the session of the Congress Monday Feb.4, 2008 at suburban Quezon city north of Manila.

Their formidable alliance frayed when his son, Jose "Joey" de Venecia III—a losing bidder in a government broadband contract with a Chinese company—told a Senate inquiry last year that Arroyo's husband was promised a US$70 million kickback from the deal.

He also claimed Arroyo's husband tried to force him to withdraw his bid, which was eventually scrapped. Jose "Mike" Miguel Arroyo has denied the allegation, but the testimony drove a wedge between the two powerful families and set the stage for the speaker's ouster.

19 killed in Afghan raids, clashes

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan and foreign troops conducted two raids on the homes of suspected Taliban militants Monday, leaving 10 people dead, including women and children, police said. A separate clash in southern Uruzgan province left nine suspected militants dead.

In the Bakwa district of western Farah province, foreign and Afghan ground forces attacked the home of suspected Taliban member Mullah Manan, killing nine people, including two women and two children, district police Chief Khan Agha said.

He said the troops acted on intelligence indicating that insurgents were meeting at Manan's house. Manan escaped the attack.

In southern Helmand province, foreign troops raided the house of another Taliban suspect near the capital of Lashkar Gah, killing him and wounding his 8-year-old daughter, said provincial police Chief Mohammad Hussein Andiwal.

Bus bombing mars Sri Lanka anniversary

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka celebrated its 60th independence anniversary Monday with a display of military might, but suspected rebels marred the holiday with their own show of power, killing 13 passengers in a bus bombing.

Tanks, jets, attack boats and thousands of troops paraded through the capital, Colombo, to mark the holiday as the quarter-century-old civil war raged on in this Indian Ocean island nation.

In a defiant speech, President Mahinda Rajapaksa railed against the Tamil Tigers and reiterated his vow to force the rebel group out of its northern stronghold and destroy it.

"Our defense forces have achieved victories that were never before seen. Terrorism is facing a defeat that it has never before faced," he said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Suicide bomb kills 6 in Pakistan

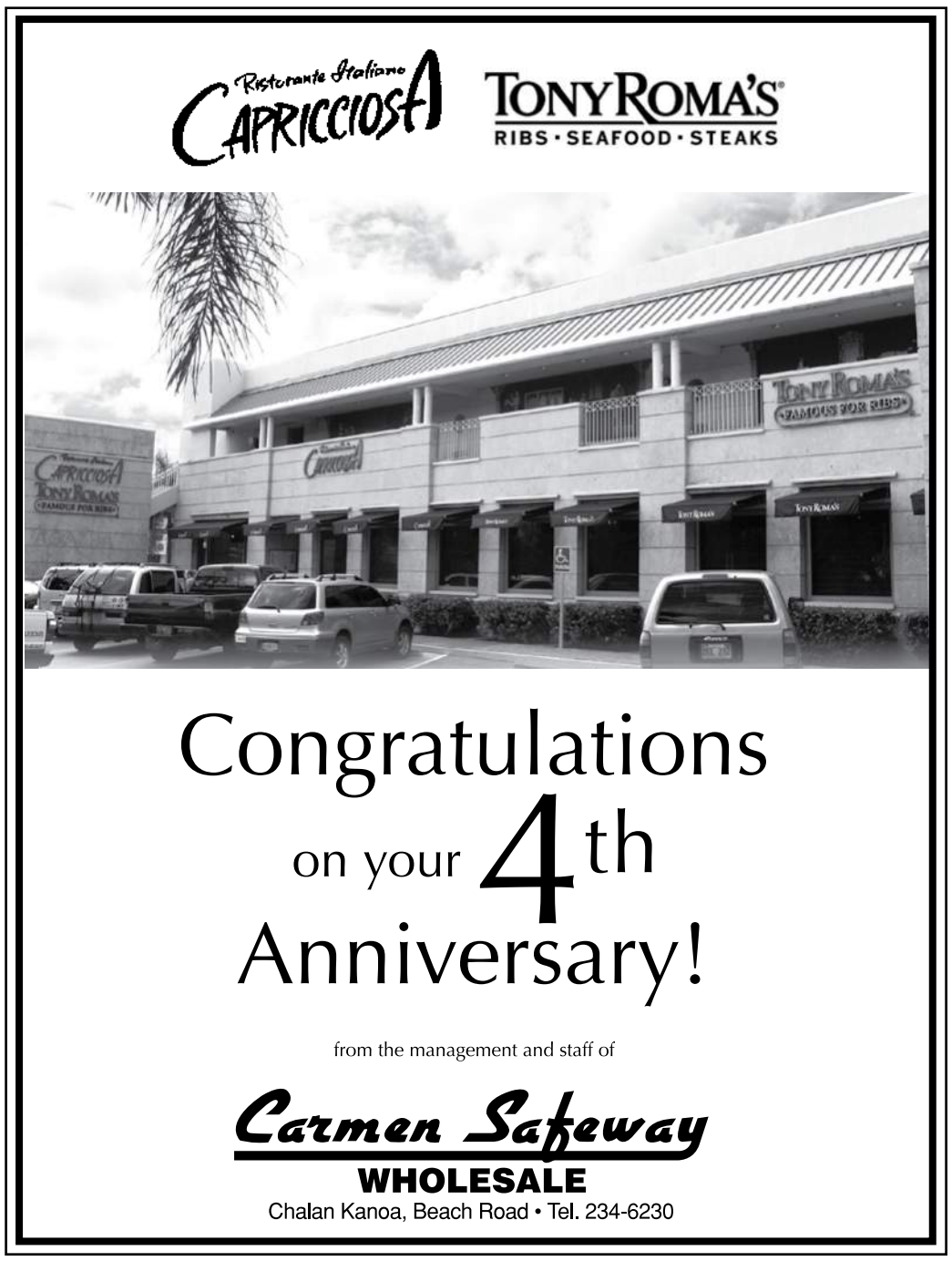
ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—A suicide bomber blasted a military bus Monday in the northern city of Rawalpindi, killing six people, and a gunman fired on a political gathering in the south, stoking fears about security ahead of this month's crucial parliamentary elections. A military statement said 38 people were wounded in the blast when a suicide bomber rammed his motorbike into the bus carrying military personnel to work in Rawalpindi, headquarters of the Pakistani army. The dead included a colonel from the army's medical corps.

Khmer Rouge defendant taken to hospital

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—One of the five former Khmer Rouge leaders being held for trial by Cambodia's U.N.-backed genocide tribunal was rushed to a hospital Monday, just hours after one of his co-defendants made his first courtroom appearance. Ieng Sary, the former Khmer Rouge foreign minister, was hospitalized for a urinary tract problem, said his lawyer, Ang Udom. Tribunal spokesman Reach Sambath said it was the second time in the past 10 days that the 78-year-old Ieng Sary, who has a history of heart trouble, has been taken to a hospital.

Koreas to form joint Olympic cheer squad

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North and South Korea agreed Monday to send their first joint cheering squads with a total of 600 members to this summer's Beijing Olympics in a move toward reconciliation, the South's Unification Ministry said. One squad will travel to Beijing for the first half of the Olympics and a second for the second half, the ministry said. Each will travel by train over a reconnected rail line linking the rival Koreas and consist of 150 people from each side, it said. It would be first time for the two Koreas to send joint cheering squads to the Olympics.



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World

Chad rebels renew assault on capital

N'DJAMENA, CHAD (AP)—Chadian rebels renewed their assault on the capital of this oil-rich central African country Monday, and tens of thousands of people fled as gunfire crackled and artillery shells exploded across the city.

The third day of fighting in N'Djamena threatened to further destabilize an already violent swath of Africa that is home to hundreds of thousands of refugees and borders Sudan's war-ravaged Darfur region.

Hours after the rebels went back on the attack following an overnight retreat, the U.N. Security Council authorized France and other nations to help Chad's government.

France has 1,800 soldiers backed by fighter jets based in its former colony, but French officials said there were no immediate plans to take on the insurgents. Referring to the U.N. authorization, Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner said, "I hope that we won't have to use it."

There were fears of a wider regional conflict. Chadian officials have repeatedly accused Sudan's government of supporting the rebels, and one senior general threatened to attack Sudan in retaliation. Sudan's leadership denied involvement.

The fighting in N'Djamena was believed to have taken a heavy toll. Bodies lay on the streets and the hulks of burned out tanks and other vehicles stood abandoned.

Americans living overseas head to polls for primaries

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Democrats living overseas became the first to vote in the Super Tuesday primaries, casting ballots at the stroke of midnight in Indonesia, where Sen. Barack Obama lived as a child.

Americans in more than 30 nations will line up in the next week to vote for their nominee in the 2008 U.S. presidential race, casting ballots at a hotel in Australia, a pub in Ireland and a Starbucks in Thailand, according to Democrats Abroad, an official branch of the party representing expatriates.

Other Democrats will vote for the first time ever by Internet—an option Republicans remain unable to offer voters—while the rest will stick to more traditional means of mail or fax.

Some 6 million Americans living abroad are eligible to vote in U.S. elections, but only a fraction have done so in the past.

The only option until recently was for Americans living abroad to mail absentee ballot request forms to their last U.S. county of residence, then wait in hopes that shaky mail systems would deliver the ballots in time to vote.

WORLD BRIEFS

1 killed in Palestinian-Egyptian clash

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP)—Egyptian forces and Hamas police exchanged fire across the Gaza-Egypt border Monday, and defiant Hamas leaders warned they would not permit Gaza's resealed frontier to remain closed for long. A day after Egypt closed Gaza's only gate to the world, one Palestinian was killed and several dozen people were hurt, including eight with gunshot wounds. It was the worst outbreak of violence since Jan. 23, when Hamas militants first toppled the border wall.

First suicide attack in a year in Israel

DIMONA, Israel (AP)—A Palestinian bomber blew himself up Monday in this desert town near Israel's nuclear reactor, killing an Israeli woman and wounding 11 people in the first suicide attack inside Israel in a year. Police killed a second attacker after a doctor found a suicide vest while treating him for wounds suffered in the blast. Militants claimed the bombers entered Israel through the porous Egyptian border, about 35 miles from Dimona, and said more militants were inside Israel waiting to strike.

Colombia marches against rebels

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Hundreds of thousands of Colombians wearing white T-shirts marched in their homeland and abroad Monday to demand the country's largest rebel group stop kidnapping people and release those it holds. The idea of the protests against the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, known as the FARC, was born less than a month ago on the social networking Web site Facebook, and nearly 100,000 people in 165 cities around the world confirmed their participation. The protests were concentrated in Colombia and Latin American capitals, though there were smaller protests in other places including Sweden, Hungary, France, Italy, India and Miami.

Campus Life

Young voters invigorating campaign season

By JASON SONG
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Matt Murphy knows it's difficult to be a Republican at any college, much less the University of California, Los Angeles.

"I can't walk down the quad without someone trying to talk to me about Obama or give me a flier. ... They want me to drink the Democratic Kool-Aid," said the 19-year-old freshman who said he probably would vote for former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney.

In any other election, Murphy's claim could be dismissed as a youthful exaggeration or an interesting, but ultimately insignificant, factoid. After all, did the youth vote help catapult Sen. John Kerry into the White House in 2004?

But this year might be different. New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and especially Barack Obama, the Illinois senator, have captured the imaginations of young voters who recognize their chance to put a woman or black man into the White House and are expected to come to the polls Tuesday in record numbers.

The youth vote already has played a key role in earlier primaries. In South Carolina, voters between 18 and 29 accounted for 14 percent of voters, up from 9 percent in 2004. And in Iowa, young voter turnout rose by 135 percent from the previous presidential contest.

Obama won both states.

"Two years ago, I never would've thought this was possible. It's absolutely ridiculous to really be a part of history," said Lauren Olson, an 18-year-old high school senior who volunteers twice a week for the Obama campaign.

Oreo cookies outnumbered Republicans at a GOP debate watching party last week at UCLA. University organizers bought two packs of the treats, a grand total of 102 cookies, but just 13 people showed up.

Only 225 students voted for a Republican candidate during a mock campus election in which Arizona Sen. John McCain and Texas Rep. Ron Paul tied for first with 66 votes apiece. On the Democratic side, Obama was the overwhelming Democratic choice with 54 percent of the 1,387 votes.

Brandon Dietz ate a few cookies and listened as the candidates discussed immigration. The fourth-year student had considered voting for Rudolph W. Giuliani, the former New York mayor. "Now he's outtie, so it's important I hear both sides," he said.

Dietz admitted that he's in the minority. "No amount of food will get people out for this," he said.

And most students at the party quickly pointed out they're not that Republican.

"I'm not a Bush fan," said Katya Balan, a third-year global studies major. Balan plans to vote for McCain because "the fact that he's criticized the Republican Party means a lot to me. It shows he's not afraid to lead the party back to where it should be," she said.

On other, more politically balanced campuses, Republican students say they sometimes feel isolated amid the Obama frenzy. "There are times that you feel overwhelmed by all the excitement," said Rachel Ward, a Chapman University senior who volunteered for Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's reelection campaign.

And even Ward doesn't have it easy. She's volunteering for state Assemblyman Jim Silva and when she told a reporter she plans to vote for Romney, her pro-McCain colleagues booed.

"I believe in a limited government ... and he's a more conservative candidate," Ward said.

Although there weren't any catcalls, a similar difference of opinion raged at the Bruin Democrats meeting after the Republican debate.

Sixty-four students, many wearing matching T-shirts, showed up to rehash the day's events. Then two students got up to deliver short speeches, exhorting their peers to vote for either Obama or Clinton.

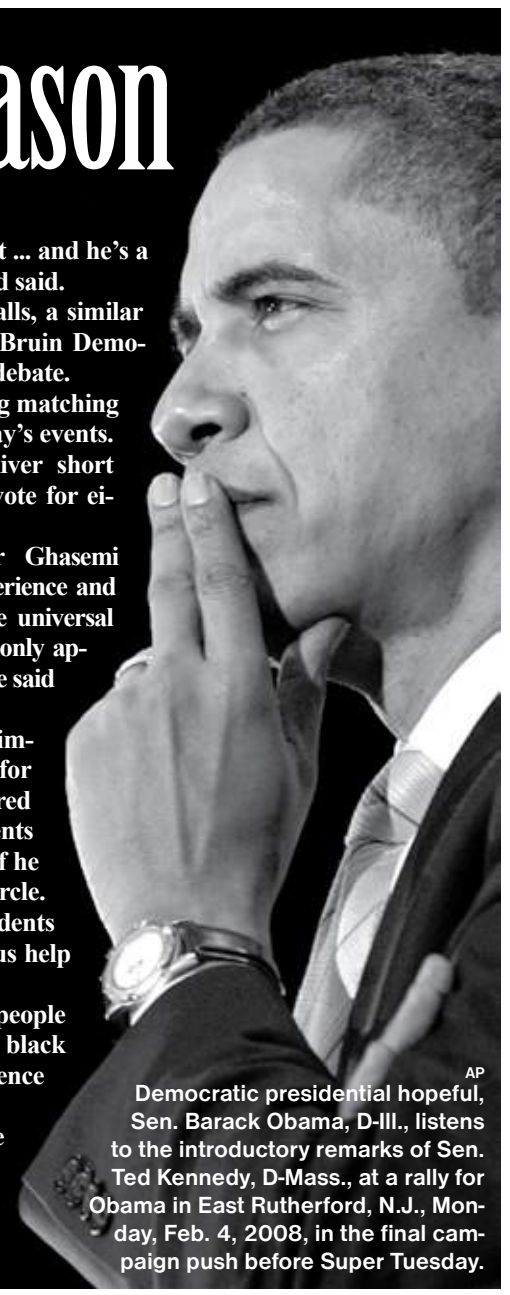
Third-year student Navid Pour Ghasemi praised the New York senator's experience and even her failed attempt to introduce universal health care in the mid-1990s. "I can only applaud her foresight ... in hindsight," he said while a few students twittered.

Curtis Whatley made an equally impassioned plea for students to vote for Obama. Whatley said he was inspired by the senator, and, like many students campaigning for Obama, spoke as if he were a member of Obama's inner circle.

The campaign has empowered students and "that's going to be a tremendous help when we run in 2008," he said.

It's not surprising that young people identify more with a woman and black candidate, said UCLA political science professor Mark Sawyer.

"The Democratic side looks like America as young people experience, and the Republican side looks like America as their parents experienced it," Sawyer said.



AP
Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., listens to the introductory remarks of Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., at a rally for Obama in East Rutherford, N.J., Monday, Feb. 4, 2008, in the final campaign push before Super Tuesday.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

WSR February calendar of events

Feb. 6: ABE/GED Registration 2:45-4:15pm Room D-5
Feb. 7: Chinese New Year (Year of the Rat)
Feb. 8: WSR Walk-A-Thon (info sent out to parents earlier)
Feb. 9: DYS Parent Dev. Workshop
Feb. 11: Flag ceremony, 8am WSR stage
Feb. 11-24: WSR Read-A-Thon
Feb. 12: STUCO Meeting 2:35pm Room D-5
Feb. 13: Parent Advisory Council meeting, 6pm, Library
Feb. 13: Autism Parent Night, 6pm, WSR Cafeteria
Feb. 14: Valentine's Day
Feb. 14: 3rd Quarter Mid-Progress Report
Feb. 15: WSR Family Fun Night 5:30pm WSR Campus
Feb. 16: PSS Statewide Wellness Symposium (By invitation)
Feb. 18: Presidents' Day holiday (no classes)
Feb. 20: PTSA Meeting/Parent Literacy Night, 6pm, Cafeteria
Feb. 27: Half Day/Report Card Day

We are inviting parents to participate in the Autism Parent Night. Presenters from Oregon will be providing information on autism as well as answering questions.

Once again, the WSR PTSA is sponsoring a "Family Fun Night." Please come to the school and enjoy great food, entertainment, games and the company of our community. ***(PR)***

MHS calendar of events

Feb. 13: Midprogress Reports (distributed to students)
Feb. 18: No classes (Presidents Day)
Feb. 22: MHS Cultural Day (Regular School Day) Open to the Public 8:30-3pm
March 14: 3rd Quarter Exam (3rd & 4th periods)
March 17: 3rd Quarter Exam (1st & 2nd periods)
March 19-28: No classes (Break)
March 31: Classes resume (4th Quarter begins)
May 2: No classes (Intersession Day)
May 26: No classes (Memorial Day)
May 31: MHS Commencement Ceremony
June 3: Fourth Quarter ends
For questions and concerns contact 237-3206. ***(PR)***

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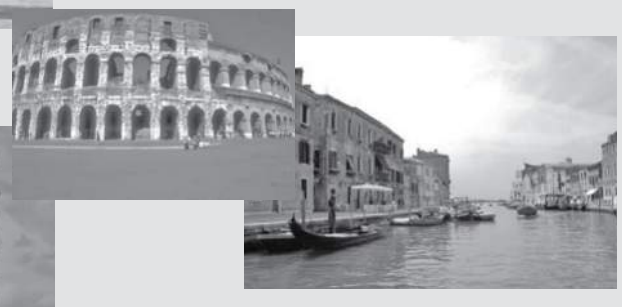

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Life & Style

Brazil samba groups take over Rio

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP)—A Brazilian carnival group banned from parading with a dancing Hitler and mannequins representing Holocaust victims danced the samba through the streets Monday with men and women in white gowns wearing gags.

"You don't build the future by burying the past," read a banner on the float that the Viradouro group was forced to alter after a judge sided with a Jewish organization and ordered it not to use the float designed to remind people of past horrors to prevent them from happening again.

Viradouro's new float was designed as a statement in favor of freedom of expression. Its other floats kept with the group's main theme, "It Gives You Goosebumps," with hundreds samba dancers wearing electric chairs, dressed as cockroaches and skiing down a 130-foot ice-coated slope.

Sergio Widder, Latin America representative for the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said the Jewish human rights group never wanted to censor the parade but wanted to protest "the banalization and trivialization of the Holocaust."

"No one wants or should bury the past," he said. "In fact, if there is one thing that the Jewish community is renowned for, it is its refusal to bury the past."

The frenzy of parading that started Sunday night and didn't end until dawn Monday also included a nearly nude Brazilian woman who hopes to set a record for plastic surgeries dancing before thundering drummers in a tribute to the first wave of Japanese immigration to Brazil 100 years ago.

The 36-year-old star of the Porto da Pedra samba group, Angela Bismarchi—who had her eyelids surgically altered to look Asian—danced with thousands of people decked out as geishas, sushi chefs and samurai. In the shadow of a golden pagoda float, rotating Hello Kitty dolls opened to expose fur-lined shells with scantily clad women inside.

Bismarchi, wearing little more than silver body paint and black feathered wings, underwent her 42nd cosmetic surgery last week, as she closes in on the Guinness World Record of 47 procedures, held by an American.

AP

Dancers from Unidos do Viradouro samba school parade at the Sambadrome in Rio de Janeiro, Monday, Feb. 4, 2008.

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Addendum No. 2

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is hereby notifying all interested proposers / firms / agencies of the following revisions:

1. **QUESTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS FROM POTENTIAL CONTRACTORS**- Time Extended to Wednesday, February 20, 2008 no later than 3:00 p.m. (Saipan Time)

2. **PREBID CONFERENCE –** To be held on Wednesday, February 27, 2008 @ 10: 00 a.m. (Saipan Time) at the CUC main office, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, for all prospective offerors who have submitted their "Expression of Interest".

3. **FINAL RESPONSE TO ALL QUESTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS BY CUC** - By Tuesday, March 11, 2008 @ 4:00 p.m. (Saipan Time)

4. **PROPOSAL SUBMISSION BY PROPOSERS –** One (1) original and seven (7) copies to be submitted by March 31, 2008 no later than 3:00 p.m. (Saipan Time) in a sealed envelope to Purchasing Manager, CUC Procurement Division, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, Tel: (670) 235-7025 thru 7032 and Fax (670) 235-5138, no later than 3:00 p.m., local time, on February 25, 2008. For proposers outside of CNMI, the proposals shall be postmarked on the same date as the closing day for submission of the proposals and received within seven (7) working days (April 9, 2008).

ANTHONY C. GUERRERO
Executive Director

Japanese princess: Is her food too rich?

TOKYO (AP)—First, Crown Princess Masako feasted on a 13-dish special Mexican menu in her honor. Then it was shark fin soup and roast duck at a top Chinese restaurant. Then came a sumptuous French meal featuring black truffles.

Japan's crown princess has been eating very well indeed in recent months—and being criticized in the tabloid press for violating the public image of imperial austerity.

The sightings, documented by Japanese news magazines, have compounded the impression the Harvard-educated princess is taking her imperial obligations too lightly.

"If she is well enough to regularly go out for fancy dinners, I wonder why she can't resume her official duties," said Sachiko Tomobe, a Tokyo florist. "A nice dinner outside the palace is fine if it makes her feel better, but not too often."

The 44-year-old Masako, a former diplomat who married into the imperial family in 1993, has opted out of most official functions in recent years because of what is widely believed to be depression.

She skipped a rice cake making ceremony attended by the emperor and empress Dec. 28, but then joined Crown Prince Naruhito and their dogs' veterinarian and his family for a French dinner.

Masako's lavish—and publicly funded—meals have attracted attention as the economy is showing signs of faltering, and many Japanese, including Emperor Akihito, say they are concerned about the widening gap between rich and poor.

The five-member imperial household—the emperor, empress, Masako, her husband and their daughter—receives a $3 million annual stipend. The palace has no breakdown for individual shares.

While the recent sightings might seem mild compared to free-spending monarchs elsewhere, the Japanese royal house in the postwar era has until now made a show of being frugal.

Masako's sister-in-law, Princess Sayako, used to make her own boxed lunch when she was single and working at a bird institute. These days, she appears in the media hunting for bargains at discount shops.

Some critics have even taken Masako to task for leaving her daughter, 6-year-old Aiko, with baby sitters.

"Princess Masako: horseback riding in the afternoon, shopping in Ginza," said a headline in the Weekly Gendai magazine. "She's performed official duties twice, but ample private activity, with more than 50 outings."

Spain gets back stolen 15th century map

MADRID, Spain (AP)—A stolen 15th century map dating to the dawn of modern printing, a decade before Christopher Columbus sailed to America, was returned to Spain on Monday.

The map was discovered missing from Spain's National Library in August, cut out of a 1482 edition of Claudius Ptolemy's "Cosmographia." Fifteen other irreplaceable documents also disappeared.

A Uruguayan-born researcher, Cesar Gomez Rivero, was charged in the thefts.

The Cosmographia map was seized by Australian Federal Police at an art gallery in Sydney after it passed through dealers in Argentina, London and New York, a spokesman for the Spanish library told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity in keeping with government rules.

Eight other maps were recovered in Buenos Aires. Two others were tracked to New York and handed over in November to Spain's police chief.

At least four maps dating from between the 15th and 17th centuries were still missing, Spain Interior Minister Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba said in November.

Cosmographia was printed by 15th century cartographers using original calculations made by Ptolemy, a 2nd century Greek astronomer and geographer.

World maps by Ptolemy were used by travelers for hundreds of years. Columbus is believed to have sailed with Ptolemy's maps when he sailed to America in 1492.

What makes the returned map especially valuable is its remarkable coloring and near perfect state of preservation, the library spokesman said.

The map was returned to library director Milagros del Corral at a ceremony in Sydney, Australia.

Spain's Ambassador to Australia, Antonio Cosano praised Australia for the return.

"This country is sending a very strong and firm message that it fully implements its international obligations and Australia is not a safe haven for the illicit export of the cultural heritage of any nation," he told reporters at the National Library of Australia.

Pimp C's death ruled accidental

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Influential Southern rapper Pimp C died of an accidental overdose of a combination of drugs he had name-checked in his lyrics—codeine and promethazine, the county coroner's office ruled Monday.

The drugs are key ingredients in "syrup," a narcotic of choice in Southern rap circles that was most famously celebrated by Three 6 Mafia and Pimp C's group Underground Kingz in the 2000 single "Sippin' on some Syrup."

The coroner's office said Pimp C had sleep apnea, which causes people to stop breathing for up to 30 seconds at a time while sleeping. That illness combined with large amounts of prescription-strength cough syrup is what killed the rapper, coroner's Capt. Ed Winter said.

DJ Screw, another influential figure in the Texas hip-hop scene, died of a heart attack in 2000 after a reported overdose of codeine-laced cough syrup.

Pimp C, born Chad Butler, was 33 when he was found in his bed Dec. 4 at the upscale Mondrian hotel in West Hollywood. The coroner's office said his body was decomposing when it was found.

With partner-in-rhyme Bun B, Pimp C was half of the pioneering Port Arthur, Texas-based rap duo UGK. The group's self-titled CD topped the Billboard charts last year. Pimp C had been working on a solo effort before he died.

Spears' father retained as conservator

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A court commissioner on Monday extended the temporary conservatorship of Britney Spears to her father and an attorney until Feb. 14 and appointed a physician to evaluate her competence to make decisions.

The hearing came three days after her father, James Spears, and her attorney, Andrew Wallet, were granted temporary conservatorship after Superior Court Commissioner Reva Goetz ruled that Spears needed someone to take over her personal and financial affairs.

Goetz's decision might not sit well with Spears, who remains in a hospital psychiatric ward undergoing a medical evaluation. Adam Streisand, who sought to enter the case as Spears' lawyer, said in court that the pop star told him her dad shouldn't be named the conservator of her and her estate.

"She has expressed to me very strongly that her father not be the conservator," Streisand said. "There has been an estrangement for quite some time. With him as conservator, that is causing her more agitation and more distress."

Despite Streisand's pleas, Goetz denied his request to represent Spears.

In addition, Goetz ordered Spears to have no contact whatsoever with her friend and sometime manager Sam Lutfi, specifying that she can't reach him by phone, text message or by any other means. Goetz also extended a restraining order against Lutfi.

The restraining order has not been served on Lutfi, court spokesman Allan Parachini said, declining to elaborate.

A court-appointed attorney also weighed in on the Spears case. Samuel Ingham said he interviewed Spears on Sunday at UCLA Medical Center, determining that she didn't understand the court proceedings, and that "she lacks the capacity to retain counsel."

Streisand argued that Spears hadn't been given any notice of Ingham's plan to interview her, saying Ingham appeared at the hospital unannounced.

Vivian Thoreen, attorney for Spears' father, said her client should continue to be conservator because "his daughter is in great distress."

"He's not here to take over her assets," Thoreen said. "He's here to get her medical help. He's here to take over while she's healing."

Spears was originally to be released Sunday after a 72-hour mental evaluation. But doctors and a ward medical officer cited California law to keep her for two weeks, said a person close to the pop star who requested anonymity.

The state law allows patients to be kept for medical treatment if they are found to be gravely disabled or a danger to themselves or others.

Streisand also told Goetz that the Spears estate has assets totaling $40 million and that one of her entities is being audited by the IRS.

Earlier Monday, a child custody hearing was held but continued because of Spears' condition.

Lawyers for Spears, her exhusband Kevin Federline and her conservators met behind closed doors. The hearing was to deal with efforts by Spears' legal team to withdraw from the case, but the lawyers abandoned that effort last week.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW08-IFB-008

This ad is paid for by the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) with HUD Funds.

Construction of the Saipan Skate Park

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the **Construction of the Saipan Skate Park,** at Sugar King Park, in Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Project Package will be available on or after January 25, 2008, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 P.M.) Monday through Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Seventy-Five ($75.00 is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, check, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of $3.55 per hour which took effect on July 25, 2007 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of $.50 per hour every six (6) months until the hourly rate equals that of the Federal Minimum Wage of $7.50 per hour.

A Pre-bid Conference will be conducted at 9:00 a.m. local time, February 13, 2008 at the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of the Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, Gualo Rai, or faxed to (670) 322-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time, February 14, 2008.

Sealed Bids must be marked **DPW08-IFB-008**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, February 20, 2008.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, February 20, 2008 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U. S. Postal Service or the official government postal service no later than February 20, 2008 AND must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than February 29, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, March 3, 2008. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m., local time, February 20, 2008.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00), a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Saipan Skate Park Project". Surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable le to the Attorney General. Bid bonds must be certified by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars (US$100.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

All bidders are hereby notified that the CNMI Government will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/
Jose S. Demapan
Secretary of Public Works

/s/
Manuel A. Sablan
Chairman & Contracting Officer
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

/s/
Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

CNMI State Rehabilitation Council
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 501521 SAIPAN, MP 96950,
TEL:(670)322-6538 FAX: (670)322-6536
TTY (670) 322-6449 E -MAIL: voc. rehab@saipan. coin

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, hereby giving notice that the State Rehabilitation Council will hold Its FY 2008 2nd General membership meeting on February 20, 2008 at Giovanni's. Hyatt Regency Saipan from 9:30am- 1:30pm, Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Preliminaries: Welcome Remarks
II. Roll Call
III. Review & Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review & Adoption of Minutes of December 19, 2007
V. Reports
A. Chairperson
B. OVR Director
IV. New Business
A. OVR Policies
B. OVR Case Services Manual
C. National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Council Resolution
D. Amendments to SAC By-Laws
E. Appointments of Committee Chairs
VII. Consumer Forum
VIII. Announcements/Miscellaneous
XI. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Individuals who wish to attend this meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language Interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537/6538 (voice) or 322-6449 (TM, Please contact Magin lginoef (Council Liaison) two days In advance for necessary arrangements.

/a/ **Gregorio Sablan**
SRC Chairperson

Publication of this notice was paid for with federal funds made possible by RSA of the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS).

Giants-Patriots most-watched Super Bowl

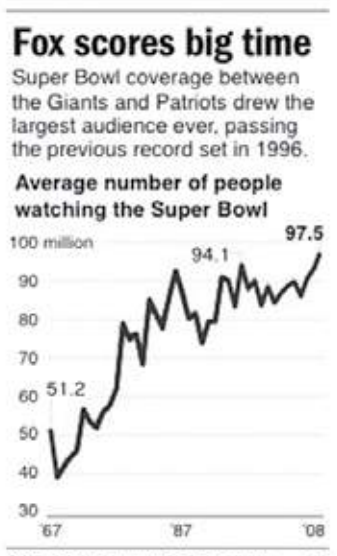
NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Giants' thrilling win over New England was the most-watched Super Bowl ever with 97.5 million viewers, a total that is second only to the "M-A-S-H" finale audience, Nielsen Media Research said Monday.

The game eclipsed the previous Super Bowl record of 94.08 million, set when Dallas defeated Pittsburgh in 1996. The final "M-A-S-H" episode, which drew 106 million viewers in 1983, is the only other show in American broadcast history watched by more people.

Sunday's game had almost all the ingredients Fox could have hoped for: a tight contest with an exciting finish involving a team that was attempting to make history as the NFL's first unbeaten team since 1972.

But the Giants ended New England's bid for perfection, 17-14. Throughout the game, the teams were never separated by more than a touchdown.

Giants quarterback Eli Manning, who was to appear on David Letterman's "Late Show" on Monday, also won bragging



rights over his brother: Last year's win by Peyton Manning's Indianapolis Colts was seen by 93.2 million people, now the third most popular Super Bowl.

Fox, a division of News Corp., charged $2.7 million for 30 seconds of advertising time on the game.

An eye-popping 81 percent of all TV sets on in the Boston area Sunday were tuned in to the game. In New York, the audience share was 67 percent.

The audience peaked between 9:30 and 10 p.m. ET—the fourth quarter—with 105.7 million people watching, Nielsen said.

There were signs even before gametime that Fox could be headed for a record. The opportunity for a team to make history with football's first 19-0 record was a powerful draw. The Giants and Patriots also had a tight contest in late December that drew strong ratings.

The Giants' underdog run had also captivated the nation's largest media market, making up for the only potential weakness in the event as a drawing card: the lack of geographical diversity in the competing teams.

There were past Super Bowl games with higher ratings, topped by the 1982 game between San Francisco and Cincinnati (49.1 rating, 73 share). That indicates that a larger percentage of homes with televisions were watching the game. But since the American population has increased, along with the number of people with TVs, the actual number of people watching this year was higher.

Ledger drug rumors upset Perth locals

PERTH, Australia (AP)—Heath Ledger's hometown prepared Monday for the arrival of his remains, while locals expressed dismay at speculation in the media that the actor had used drugs.

Details of funeral arrangements for the late co-star of "Brokeback Mountain" have not been announced, but Ledger's family is expected to bring his body back to Perth this week. Family members have reportedly already attended two memorial services in Los Angeles.

The Australian newspaper reported Monday that Ledger will be buried next to two of his grandparents in a family plot in Perth. Ledger's publicist, Mara Buxbaum, didn't immediately respond to an e-mail from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Ledger died in his New York City apartment Jan. 22 at age 28. Authorities suspect a drug overdose, but the cause of his death is still pending the outcome of toxicology tests. Police said several prescription drugs were found in the apartment where the actor's body was found.

Residents of this idyllic city located on the western Australia coast expressed sadness at his sudden death—and outrage over rumors that he was a drug user.

Stallone challenges military officials

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sylvester Stallone says his latest "Rambo" film and its tag line are inspiring real-life opponents of Myanmar's military rulers. "Either live for something, die for nothing—it's your choice," the 61-year-old actor-director said Saturday in a phone call from Paris, where he is promoting the movie, the fourth in a series.

"Students have now used this film as a rallying point and are using the quote, thinking maybe the American military will intervene and save them," he said.

"Rambo" has the disaffected Vietnam vet John Rambo trying to find missionaries captured by Myanmar soldiers, who are shown razing villages and killing civilians.

Myanmar's military crushed pro-democracy protests led by students and Buddhist priests last year.

AP

U.S. actor Sylvester Stallone greets fans before the premiere of his latest film John Rambo, in Paris, Monday, Feb. 4, 2008.

Stallone filmed "Rambo," which has yet to be released in Asia, on a river bordering Myanmar and neighboring Thailand.

He issued a challenge to the ruling military.

"If they think this movie is a fantasy, I welcome the opportunity to let me come over there and walk around the country without armed guards following me every inch of the way," he said.

'General Hospital' actress Kepler dies

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Actress Shell Kepler, who for years played the gossipy nurse Amy Vining on the TV soap opera "General Hospital," has died. She was 49. Kepler died Friday at Oregon Health & Science University hospital, which did not give the cause of death.

Kepler's busybody character on "General Hospital" was a fan favorite and enjoyed a long run, 1979-2002.

Kepler

In addition to her run on "General Hospital," she was also in a 1982 Joan Collins film, "Homework," and a couple of episodes of the situation comedy "Three's Company."

On the side, she was a businesswoman, marketing clothing on the former Home Shopping Club. She said in a 1994 Associated Press interview that her "Lacy Afternoon" collection had sales topping $20 million that year alone.

Kepler was born in Ohio and the family moved to California when she was 10. She recalled in 1994 that she didn't yet have a driver's license when she began trying out for film roles.

Julianne Moore's valentine to charity

NEW YORK (AP)—Julianne Moore has a loving new way to help struggling kids in America: Send a valentine.

Just before Christmas, the 47-year-old actress read to elementary school students and met with parents in White Oak, Tenn., on behalf of Save the Children. The organization aims to improve children's quality of life through literacy, physical activity and nutrition programs.

Moore

Afterward, Moore, a mother of two, was inspired to offer Valentine's Day cards online in return for donations to Save the Children. The cards, featuring children's artwork, can be printed or e-mailed, and are available through Feb. 14 on the charity's Web site.

In an interview with The Associated Press on Thursday, Moore said she hopes the initiative will catch on in schools where classmates exchange valentines.

"I know my kids are very service-oriented, and they're very into the idea of charity—particularly when it comes to other kids," she said of son Caleb, 9, and daughter Liv, 5.

"It's just sort of a nice way to acknowledge kids who were struggling in America," Moore said. "It's like kids loving kids."

The four-time Oscar nominee has also shown support for striking Hollywood writers. She was photographed picketing with Robin Williams and other stars outside New York's Time Warner Center the first week scribes walked off the job in November.

"Everybody really really wants it to be resolved—but at the end of the day, jobs are much more important than awards," she said. "So we really want this settled so that everybody can go back to work."

Tolerance for others' beliefs could help heal world woes

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR READERS: Today's column is a continuation of yesterday's, with more of your thought-provoking answers to my question, "What do you think is society's greatest problem?" Read on:

DEAR ABBY: You won't print this, but in my opinion organized religion has a lot to do with why the world is so badly messed up.

Although most religions espouse values of kindness, generosity and good works, in practical application, it seems that religion is used more often to divide "them" from "us," and to give people yet another way to discriminate against one another. It isn't limited to wars between different religions; one need only look back a few years to see different sects of Christians killing and terrorizing each other in Northern Ireland. And look at the state of religious warfare today. Muslims are murdering and terrorizing other Muslims in Iraq just for belonging to a different sect of Islam.

If people were more concerned with doing the right things in THIS world, rather than preoccupying themselves with what is going to happen in the NEXT one, our world would be a better place.

—KIM IN COLUMBUS, OHIO

DEAR KIM: Your letter has merit, and that's why I printed it.

DEAR ABBY: I have been in this world a little more than 14 years, and to me, the main problem in our world today is lack of forgiveness. We hold onto our anger and hate, thinking it makes us who we are, but really it destroys us.

Abby, I am not naive. I know not all people are good, but I believe people's actions depend on their circumstances and past, and we cannot judge them solely on what they do. If we could forgive people's bad decisions and move on, the world would be a better place.

—KATIE IN JAMESVILLE, N.Y.

DEAR ABBY: It's the "me first" mind-set that is illustrated by the guy who cuts you off in traffic, the young woman who rushes past the elderly woman with a cane entering a public restroom to grab the larger handicap stall when all the others are empty, the young mother who continues shopping with a screaming toddler having a tantrum—oblivious and not even trying to control it.

It's the co-worker who rises to the top by telling lies or taking credit for the work of others, or the person who cheats you in a business deal.

The bottom line? We have made evil politically correct and faith unmentionable.

—MARTHA IN CRESCENT CITY, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: I think the problem is ignorance—ignorance of the fact that we are faced with choices every day and can act on them for better or worse. We are ignorant of our own empowerment when it comes to the environment, how we treat others, our society's history that at times leads us down the same path toward war and the destruction of others. It's ignorance of the plight of our neighbors, our community, our country and around the world. There is woeful ignorance of our government, that it services the people, that its prime mission is the safety and well-being of the people, and our own civil rights.

Merlin of King Arthur's round table said, "The curse of man is that he forgets." If only we won't forget that we are loving beings, capable of great love beyond measure, if only we would not ignore so much, but remember just a little.

—MAURICE IN ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

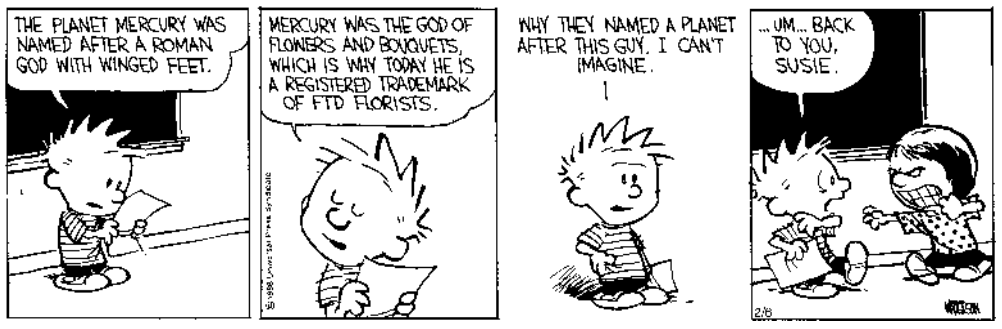
■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

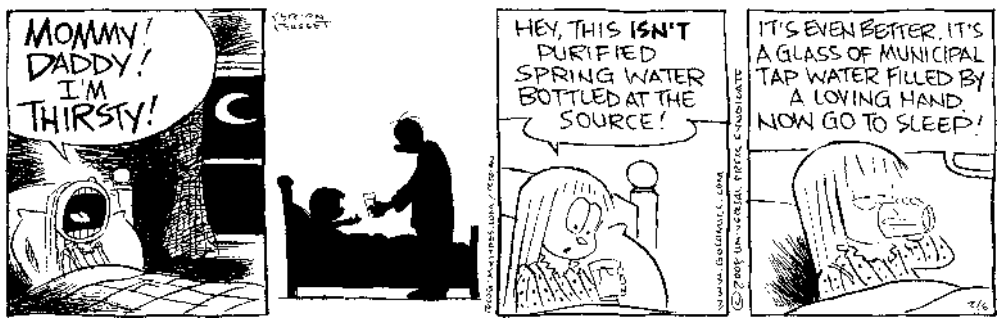

THE PLANET MERCURY WAS NAMED AFTER A ROMAN GOD WITH WINGED FEET.
MERCURY WAS THE GOD OF FLOWERS AND BOUQUETS, WHICH IS WHY TODAY HE IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF FTD FLORISTS.
WHY THEY NAMED A PLANET AFTER THIS GUY, I CAN'T IMAGINE.
...UM... BACK TO YOU, SUSIE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

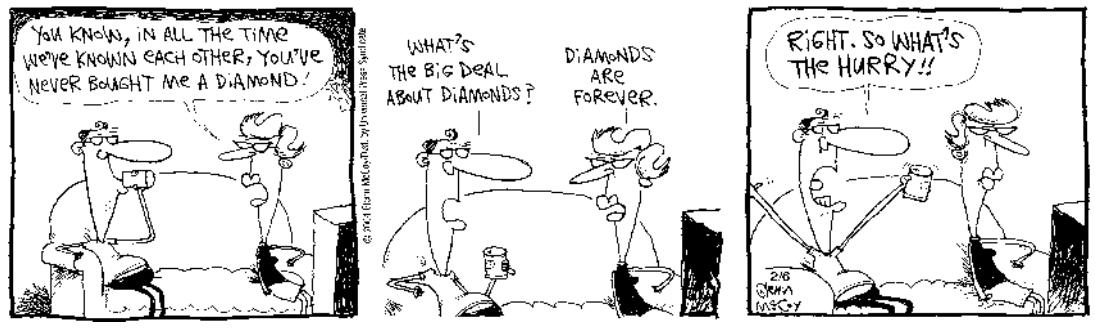
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


MOMMY! DADDY! I'M THIRSTY!
HEY, THIS ISN'T PURIFIED SPRING WATER BOTTLED AT THE SOURCE!
IT'S EVEN BETTER. IT'S A GLASS OF MUNICIPAL TAP WATER FILLED BY A LOVING HAND. NOW GO TO SLEEP!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


YOU KNOW, IN ALL THE TIME WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER, YOU'VE NEVER BOUGHT ME A DIAMOND!
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT DIAMONDS?
DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER.
RIGHT. SO WHAT'S THE HURRY!!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Part of MIT
5 Coll. transcript no.
8 Old card game
12 Lotion additive
13 — -di-dah
14 Domesticate
15 Zinc oxide mixture
17 Holly
18 Scalawags
19 Immoderate
21 Dine on
22 Platter
23 Joan of —
26 Journey segment
28 Sentry
31 Prejudice
33 Promptly
35 Quarry
36 Nat and Natalie
38 Pooch
40 "— been had!"
41 Met melody
43 Prevent
45 Silent performers
47 Like melancholy music
51 Muscat's land
52 Black olive from Greece
54 Rid of rind
55 Before
56 Cauldron concoction
57 Eastern potentate
58 Accomplished
59 Charitable donations

DOWN

1 Bulletin board item
2 Verve
3 Pop choice
4 Throw hard
5 Shimmer
6 Zero-star review
7 Winning
8 Arouses
9 African desert
10 Prayer ending
11 Libretto
16 Repast
20 Eighteen-wheeler
23 Regis and Kelly's network
24 Carnival city
25 Squid dish
27 Deity
29 Gun the engine
30 Coloring agent
32 More tranquil
34 Moved unsteadily
37 Round Table address
39 Big bash
42 Requested
44 Cuban ballroom dance
45 Sulk
46 Mosque VIP
48 Noble title
49 Branch
50 Goes off course
53 Jackie's second mate

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	N	O	B	■	C	H	I	■	H	E	C	K
A	U	R	A	■	H	U	T	■	A	S	H	Y
G	L	A	D	R	A	G	S	■	P	A	U	L
A	I	I	■	O	N	F	■	S	P	U	M	F
■	■	■	J	O	T	■	D	E	Y	■	■	■
D	E	P	O	■	■	G	R	A	■	F	Y	■
O	V	A	L	■	J	A	Y	■	A	G	E	E
H	A	L	L	W	A	Y	■	P	L	O	W	S
■	■	■	Y	A	M	■	Y	A	K	■	■	■
S	O	O	■	S	■	T	A	I	■	A	L	A
T	A	X	I	■	M	E	R	R	Y	M	E	N
A	H	E	M	■	P	A	D	■	O	M	I	T
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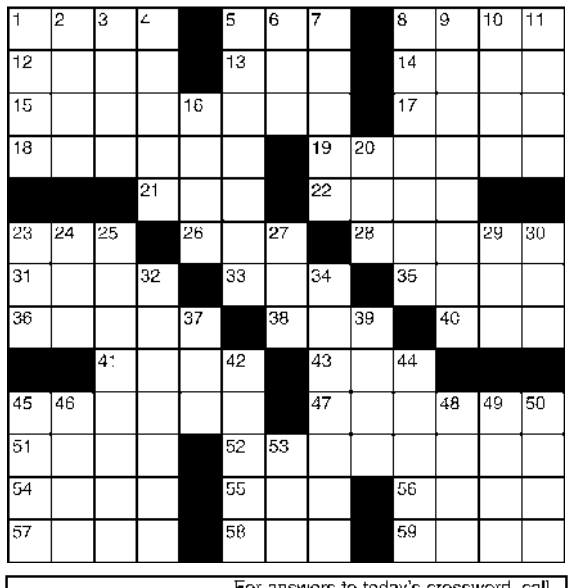
Yesterday's answer 2-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Masaharu Fukuyama, 39; Axl Rose, 46; Natalie Cole, 58; Tom Brokaw, 68

Happy Birthday: You'll be a dreamer, entrepreneur and a willful competitor this year, eager to finish what you start. You will have a sense of fair play and justice. Now is the time to get serious about your future. If you play and work hard this year, you will excel for years to come. Your numbers are 9, 11, 17, 21, 33, 39

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Whatever you offer to a cause or someone in need will result in an interesting new relationship. The riches you receive will come from the most unexpected source and in a rare but heartwarming way. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't take life too seriously today, even if someone is pressuring you to do something you don't want to do. Concentrate on love, travel and the fun things in life and don't get involved in someone else's melodrama. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): It would be a shame to miss out on something good because you are lazy or unmotivated. Information that should help you make an important decision will be made available to you. It's your indecisiveness that will hold you back. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): There is plenty to contend with if you want to make headway. Talks will be vital to the outcome of a situation you are concerned about. Don't overreact if you want to solve problems and make changes. Listen to advice. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Clear up any old debts whether owed to you or by you. By working out a budget or payment plan, you can control the stress you are enduring regarding money matters. A partnership may be on the line. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Make some changes at home that are geared toward comfort and entertainment. The adjustments made will help to bring you closer to the ones you live with. Don't forget to send out resumes or push for advancement. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Be a participant and you will discover a host of things about yourself that you didn't realize. Let your findings prompt you to sign up for a course or do the research necessary to achieve your goals. A trip should be considered. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Someone isn't likely to give you a straight answer, especially if he or she is trying to spare your feelings or hide something from you. Be direct but do play on the emotions of others in order to get to the bottom of things. In the end you will find solutions that work for everyone. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): A trip or social gathering will help you learn more about something you may want to pursue professionally. A serious talk with someone who has experienced what you want to do will help you make a future-altering decision. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Look for any opportunity to close deals or end arguments or sign contracts. Now is the perfect time to open up new friendships or talk to someone you love about future plans. A positive change is apparent. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't feel pressured by all that is required of you today. Take on one thing at a time until you finish and you will feel the satisfaction of accomplishment instead of frustration. Now is the time to complete things of the past. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You will be extremely changeable because of uncertainty about what's going on in your life. Don't be too critical or quick to make a decision. You must feel confident that you are doing what's best for you personally. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are creative and imaginative, with great depth and insight. You are a self-starter, a dedicated participant and a crusader for justice.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7	5	3	8	9			
	8		2			6		
9				1			5	
8				5			6	
2	5	6	1	9			7	
	4	1	7				2	
							9	
							4	
				4	6	1	8	2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	8	3	2	6	1	7	4	9
2	6	4	8	9	7	1	3	5
9	7	1	3	4	5	8	2	6
1	9	6	5	8	3	4	7	2
4	3	2	7	1	9	5	6	8
8	5	7	6	2	4	9	1	3
3	1	8	4	5	6	2	9	7
6	2	9	1	7	8	3	5	4
7	4	5	9	3	2	6	8	1

Difficulty Level ★★ 2/06

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SEAT BELTS Solution: 11 letters

E	T	G	D	R	R	D	E	H	M	E	E	S	K	G
C	L	F	N	E	N	M	S	E	C	N	U	H	C	(L)
I	U	I	A	I	B	W	T	S	R	A	C	I	A	(I)
V	D	R	B	R	T	A	A	E	E	L	T	F	B	(N)
E	A	M	A	O	L	T	Y	R	G	P	A	T	E	(K)
D	K	C	U	T	M	N	I	L	N	R	M	P	A	E
S	E	N	I	F	N	O	C	F	E	I	O	A	S	L
P	S	N	A	V	L	R	T	M	S	A	N	F	L	K
A	P	D	E	X	I	F	I	U	S	S	T	G	A	C
R	E	V	I	R	D	N	Y	B	A	B	T	H	E	U
T	T	C	U	A	D	T	C	F	P	R	D	S	E	B
S	S	L	P	E	I	L	E	N	U	J	O	L	T	R
O	E	I	R	W	I	T	I	C	L	O	S	E	O	N
S	R	N	A	P	Y	O	K	H	L	S	K	O	O	H
G	S	G	S	W	J	E	R	U	C	E	S	N	A	P

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Adult, Airplane, Attach, Automobile, Baby, Back, Band, Bind, Buckle, Cars, Children, Clamp, Cling, Clips, Close, Confine, Device, Driver, Embrace, Firm, Fitting, Fixed, Forget, Front, Grip, Hold, Hooks, Join, Jolt, Laps, Leather, Link, Loose, Metal, Open, Passenger, Pets, Rear, Reminder, Rules, Safety, Secure, Shift, Snap, Stay, Straps, Truck, Tuck, Vans, Waist, Warning, Wear

Yesterday's Answer: Intrigue

Treasury 5 is here! Send check or money order for $7.88 each plus $3.95 postage and handling each ($11.83 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 each additional volume, to Universal Press Syndicate, c/o Wonderword, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free 1-800-256-6572, ext. 6555. Cards accepted. Or purchase online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

As added service to our valued customers, you may now submit all your JVA placements for announcement/publication in *Saipan Tribune*'s print and online edition and KZMI/KCNM at the same time. No more worries of having to go to two different locations every time you need to place job vacancy announcements. Special rates are available for JVA customers under this arrangement.

Print*	
• 1st position	$10
• 2nd position	$3
• Succeeding positions	$1

LOWER RATES! Effective Feb. 3, 2007

Combo (Print and Online)*	
• 1st position	$13
• 2nd position	$4
• Succeeding positions	$2

Radio (KCNM/KZMI)	
• Up to 6 positions	$5
• More than 6 positions	$10

*These rates apply to all vacancy announcements that include corresponding benefits and which announcements are all under the same company name.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.
- KCNM/KZMI: All ads placed on Friday (9am to 5pm) will be for Monday's radio announcement.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

FOR RENT RESIDENTIAL

Apartment For Rent (in Beach Road, Garapan) One (1) Bedroom fully furnished with back-up generator and 24 hour water, washer & dryer facilities in the building. For inquiries, pls. call 322-6183

House for lease, 53+ years. Newly renovated 2BR/1BA in Fina Sisu near NMC. Asking $115K. Contact Scott or Melinda Crockett, 234-5260 or 788-1834. Call for appointment.

Apartment Room for Rent
2 bed room $230.00, Koblerville.
Contact: 288-0728.

SMALL ENGINE REPAIR
LAUNDRY REPAIR
- Lawn Mower
- Generator Repair
- Boat Engine
- Bush Cutter Repair
- Motor Bike
- Rewinding

233-5641
Open 7 Day a Week 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

WANTED TO BUY A BOAT
Serious buyer looking for 30 ft. powered boat, ready to use, no repairs needed.
CALL 256-7000.
Leave message.

Marianas Maid Services
Are you overwhelmed at work?
Has taking care of your kids and the housework become a burden?
LET US MAKE YOUR HOME OR OFFICE
SPARKLE
Cleaning services starting as low as $30 per cleaning.
All equipment and cleaning supplies provided.
All our staff has been hand picked and are reliable.
Ironing, Laundry, Window washing and many other services available upon request.
Contact Julie at 287-6542 to schedule an appointment.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB No.: ITB08-CGC-040

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 2008 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

"PURCHASE OF A 15 PASSENGER VAN FOR THE COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICK-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

Gibraltar bagel

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Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Find today's solution in this section

FOR RENT RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGER (W 80594)
Salary:$17.163/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

MOVING OUT SALE
WED-FRI 8AM-5PM
FEB. 6-8, 2008
Atdao St., Dandan
across Javilli Store
483-0951

NEW Rattan Furniture
FOR SALE
Expensive material
Call 235-4791,
433-9616, 285-7446

1 ACCOUNTANT (W 80595)
Salary:$11.538/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 DEMI CHEF (W 80596)
Salary:$3.85/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 CARPENTER (W 80597)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 BEAUTICIAN (W 80598)
Salary:$5.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

3 LAUNDRY WORKER (W 80599)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 STOCK CLERK (W 80600)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 CHEF DE PARTIE (W 80601)
Salary:$6.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 HEADWAITER (W 80602)
Salary:$4.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

3 FRONT DESK CLERK (W 80603)
Salary:$3.55-$7.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 PAINTER (W 80604)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 POWER PLANT OPERATOR (W 80605)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 GARDENER (W 80606)
Salary:$4.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

2 COOK (W 80607)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

WHATZIT Solution:
Rock and roll

1 MAINTENANCE BLDG. REPAIRER (W 80608)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 GUEST RELATION REPRESENTATIVE (W 80609)
Salary:$4.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 CHIEF STEWARD (W 80610)
Salary:$7.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 GUEST RELATION OFFICER (W 80611)
Salary:$3,000.00/monthly. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 MANICURIST (W 80612)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

6 WAITER/WAITRESS (W 80613)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 MASON (W 80614)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 SALES PROMOTOR (RUSSIAN MARKET) (W 80615)
Salary:$1,500.00/monthly. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 GRAPHIC DESIGNER (W 80616)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 CASHIER (W 80617)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 TRANSLATOR (KOREAN) (W 80618)
Salary:$8.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

8 COOK (W 80619)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 MASSEUR/MASSEUSE (PANCHKARMATECH) (W 80620)
Salary:$5.25/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

8 WAITER/WAITRESS (W 80621)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

2 MASSEUSE (W 80622)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 NIGHT AUDITOR (W 80623)
Salary:$10.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

1 STOREKEEPER (W 80624)
Salary:$5.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workmans compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

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1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (W 80625)
Salary:$3.55-$3.75/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing at a charge of$30.00/monthly; workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Nippon General Trading Corp. @233-8223.

1 BARTENDER (W 80626)
Salary:$3.55-$3.90/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing at a charge of$30.00/monthly; workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Nippon General Trading Corp. @233-8223.

2 COOK (W 80627)
Salary:$3.55-$3.95/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing at a charge of$30.00/monthly; workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Nippon General Trading Corp. @233-8223.

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1 TOUR COORDINATOR (W 80628)
Salary:$3.55-$4.05/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: HIS Saipan Inc. @234-7053.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (W 80629)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical. Contact: Michael Hart @285-4278.

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1 CARPET LAYER (W 80630)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: EAP Corporation dba Filtrade Gen. Construction @234-6241.

1 MASON (W 80631)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: EAP Corporation dba Filtrade Gen. Construction @234-6241.

1 CARPENTER (W 80632)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: EAP Corporation dba Filtrade Gen. Construction @234-6241.

1 ELECTRICIAN (W 80633)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workers compensation. Contact: EAP Corporation dba Filtrade Gen. Construction @234-6241.

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1 SALES CONSULTANT (W 80634)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: PRFC Corporation @235-3578.

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2 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS (W 80635)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: KP Company Ltd. @322-0007.

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1 MANAGER (W 80636)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Emmy F. Larinay dba Saipan Machine Shop @235-5902.

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1 SCUBA (DIVING) INSTRUCTOR (W 80637)
Salary:$650.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: 5J Corporation @288-1111.

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1 (CHIEF) COOK (W 80638)
Salary:$3.55-$4.50/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: PSG Professional Corp. @235-5902.

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2 CONSTRUCTION WORKER (W 80639)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Double J Corporation dba PRO Construction @285-7153.

1 (ASSISTANT) MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (W 80640)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Double J Corporation dba PRO Construction @285-7153.

2 CARPENTER (W 80641)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Double J Corporation dba PRO Construction @285-7153.

2 MASON (W 80642)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Double J Corporation dba PRO Construction @285-7153.

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1 MAINTENANCE (W 80643)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: JAP Professional Corporation @235-5902.

1 ACCOUNTANT (W 80644)
Salary:$6.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: JAP Professional Corporation @235-5902.

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1 STOREKEEPER (W 80645)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & worksman compensation provided. Contact: Sunleader Co., Ltd. dba Sunleader Supermart @233-3222.

1 MEAT PACKER (W 80646)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & worksman compensation provided. Contact: Sunleader Co., Ltd. dba Sunleader Supermart @233-3222.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (W 80647)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/housing deductible; self provided food & medical provided. Contact: Warren Harrigan @235-1189.

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1 CIVIL ENGINEER (W 80648)
Salary:$1,700.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workman compensation. Contact: E.Q. Construction Corp. @234-8827.

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1 HOUSEKEEPING (W 80649)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; free medical & workers compensation. Contact: Full House, Inc. @233-2288.

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1 ADMIN. ASSISTANT (W 80650)
Salary:$3.75/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Commonwealth Pacific Int'l Inc. @233-2288.

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1 WAITRESS/WAITER (W 80651)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; free medical & workers compensation. Contact: Tai Hu Int'l, Inc. @233-2288.

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1 ASST. MANAGER (W 80652)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employee self housing; employee self food; free medical & worker compensation. Contact: Chung Hua Inc. @234-7768.

1 ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN (W 80653)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employee self housing; employee self food; free medical & worker compensation. Contact: Chung Hua Inc. @234-7768.

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2 A/C TECHNICIAN (W 80654)
Salary:$3.55-$5.00/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation & medical provided by employer. Contact: Gonzalo V. Pangelinan Jr. dba Pacific Airconditioning & Ref. @234-9267.

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1 PLUMBER (W 80655)
Salary:$3.55-$6.25/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable; workmen's compensation & insurance. Contact: RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction @235-8778.

1 CONSTRUCTION WORKER (W 80656)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable; workmen's compensation & insurance. Contact: RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction @235-8778.

1 PAINTER (W 80657)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable; workmen's compensation & insurance. Contact: RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction @235-8778.

1 MATERIAL COORDINATOR (W 80658)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable; workmen's compensation & insurance. Contact: RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction @235-8778.

1 CONSTRUCTION WORKER (W 80659)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable; workmen's compensation & insurance. Contact: RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction @235-8778.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (W 80660)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/monthly deduction housing; $100.00/monthly deduction food; medical & workmen compensation. Contact: Albert O. Tiu @323-8882/85.

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1 INSURANCE UNDERWRITER (W 80661)
Salary:$1,300.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Pacific Basin Insurance Co.,@234-5860/7861.

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1 MARKET RESEARCH ANALYST (W 80662)
Salary:$2,000.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provide food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Pacific Wine & Spirits (Saipan), dba P.W.S. @234-3182.

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1 ELECTRICIAN (W 80663)
Salary:$4.75/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing; $8.00/per day food; 100% medical; dental & workers compensation. Contact: Seabridge, Inc. @322-7344.

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1 AUDITOR (W 80664)
Salary:$1,575.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation employer provided. Contact: Bridge Capital, LLC. @322-2222.

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1 DAYCARE NURSE (W 80665)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provide housing; self provide food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: LBAT Corp. dba Children's World @288-5162.

1 PRE-SCHOOL TEACHER (W 80666)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provide housing; self provide food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: LBAT Corp. dba Children's World @288-5162.

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1 HOUSE MAINTENANCE (W 80667)
Salary:$3.55-$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical per CNMI laws & worksman compensation. Contact: Jose A. Ichihara @235-7852.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (W 80668)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Housing provided; food provided & medical. Contact: Carlene Reyes Tenorio @287-2896.

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Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board has been changed to Thursday, February 21, 2008 at 6:00 pm. in the 2nd floor Conference Room of the Department of Public Lands, Joeten Building, DanDan. The public is invited to attend. The agenda will include:

A. Preliminary Matters: Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes, Communications
B. Reports: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Administrator, Committees, Legal Counsel
C. Contested Cases
D. Old Business - None
E. New Business
   1. Review and approve changes to the OIA grant scope of work and budget
   2. Technical corrections to SLL 15-29 for discussion
   3. Board Order regarding review of temporary permits.
   4. Resolution to amend permit fees
   5. Resolution to establish adult business zones
F. Public Comment
G. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with Legal Counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters
H. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

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235-NEWS

Bob Knight resigns as Texas Tech coach

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP)—Bob Knight left when he wanted to this time. Almost a decade after he was fired by Indiana, the school he led to three national championships, Knight walked away Monday from college basketball in midseason.

The Texas Tech coach, known as much for his brilliance as his fiery temper, abruptly resigned and handed over the team to his son.

"He's ready," successor and son Pat Knight said during his weekly radio show. "He's tired."

It was a stunning midseason move by the winningest men's coach in major college basketball, who gave no hint a change was coming. Pat Knight, a Red Raiders assistant, was appointed his father's successor in 2005.

"There's a transition that's going to take place here from me to Pat and I've dwelt on this all year long ... how it would be best for him and for the team and for what we can do in the long run to make this the best thing for Texas Tech," Knight told the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, which first reported the resignation.

The 67-year-old Knight informed Texas Tech athletic director Gerald Myers of his decision in a meeting around noon Monday, Texas Tech chancellor Kent Hance told The Associated Press. Knight then called Hance and told him.

"I think Bob is through with coaching. I think he got to the point where it wasn't fun for him," Hance said. "He thought about it Sunday all day and talked to his wife and decided 'This is something I want to do.'"

Myers said Knight told the team before practice Monday.

The Red Raiders beat Oklahoma State 67-60 on Saturday, giving Knight his 902nd victory. He earned his 900th last month against Texas A&M.

The Red Raiders (12-8) next play Wednesday night at Baylor.

"I guess you can never be surprised at some of the things Bob does," former UCLA coach John Wooden told the AP. "I don't think there's ever been a better teacher of the game of basketball than Bob. I don't always approve of his methods, but his players for the most part are very loyal to him. I would say that no player that ever played for him would not say he did not come out a stronger person."

Knight has been a college coach for 42 seasons. He broke in at Army in 1965, but made his mark in 29 years at Indiana, including a perfect season in 1976 that hasn't been duplicated.

AP

Texas Tech coach Bob Knight, left, is congratulated by his son Pat Knight following his team's game against New Mexico in Lubbock, Texas, in this Jan. 1, 2007 file photo.

He's a complex package. He hit a policeman in Puerto Rico, threw a chair across the court, was accused of wrapping his hands around a player's neck and allegedly kicked his own son (Knight claimed he actually kicked the chair his son sat on).

But he never got in trouble for breaking NCAA rules. He always had a high graduation rate and gave his salary back a few years after he arrived in Lubbock because he didn't think he'd earned it.

In September, Knight signed a three-year contract extension that ran through the 2011-12 season.

"I didn't know, I've never really known when I was going to step down from this job. As I thought about it, my first thought was at the end of this season," Knight told the Lubbock paper. "My thinking was .. the best thing for the long run for this team would be for Pat and his staff to coach these remaining 10 games."

NCAA president Myles Brand, the former Indiana University president who fired Knight, declined to comment on the resignation, spokesman Erik Christianson said.

Knight arrived at Texas Tech in March 2001, six months after being fired by Indiana for what school officials there called a "pattern of unacceptable behavior."

The most recent off-the-court action by Knight to draw headlines came last November, when two people accused the coach or his hunting buddy of hitting them with birdshot. Neither person was injured or required medical treatment, and no criminal charges were filed against Knight.

In Knight's first six years at Tech, he led the Red Raiders to five 20-win seasons, a first at the school.

Knight passed former North Carolina coach Dean Smith as the winningest Division I coach Jan. 1, 2007, getting career win No. 880. To celebrate the milestone Knight chose "My Way" by Frank Sinatra, a mantra for how he navigated his personal and professional worlds.

Back then, Knight explained why "My Way" was so fitting.

"I've simply tried to do what I think is best," Knight said. "Regrets? Sure. Just like the song. I have regrets. I wish I could have done things better at times. I wish I would have had a better answer, a better way, at times. But just like he said, I did it my way and when I look back on it, I don't think my way was all that bad."

What he did and how he did it made Knight a legend. However, the influence and discipline he brought to coaching made him special.

"Outside of my immediate family, no single person has had a greater impact on my life than Coach Knight," said Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski, who played for Knight at Army. "I have the ultimate respect for him as a coach and a mentor, but even more so as a dear friend. For more than 40 years, the life lessons I have learned from Coach are immeasurable. Simply put, I love him."

Knight got his 100th victory at Army, then moved to Indiana, where his Hoosiers went 662-239 from 1971-2000. He won national titles there in 1976, '81 and '87.

"I am very fortunate and blessed to have played for him. He made me a better man and for that I am grateful," former Indiana star and current New Mexico coach Steve Alford said.

Knight's first NCAA title came in 1976 when Indiana went undefeated, a feat no team has accomplished since. In 1984, he coached the U.S. Olympic team to a gold medal in Los Angeles.

When he began his coaching career at Army, he was 24, the youngest-ever Division I coach. Knight won 20 or more games in 29 seasons.

"Today was the most relaxed and relieved I've seen him in a long time," Pat Knight said during his show. "He thought about doing it a year ago but he didn't want people to think he was just staying for the record. So he kind of pushed himself to go one more year."

Mavericks overcome Turkoglu triple-double to beat Magic

ORLANDO, Florida (AP)—Josh Howard scored 28 points and the Dallas Mavericks overcame Hedo Turkoglu's triple-double to hold off the Orlando Magic 107-98 in the NBA on Monday.

Dallas led by as many as 19, but Orlando trailed only 83-80 with 7:15 left. The Magic didn't score again for almost 5 minutes, and Dallas went on a 10-0 run to put the game away.

Turkoglu had 13 points, a career-high 13 assists and 12 rebounds, and Dwight Howard scored 28. But Howard, the NBA's rebounding leader averaging 15, had only seven, and Orlando was outrebounded 47-34.

Jason Terry scored 12 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter, and Dirk Nowitzki had 20 points and nine rebounds for Dallas.

Raptors 114, Heat 82

At Miami, Chris Bosh scored 24 points, Andrea Bargnani added 22 and Toronto delivered more indignity to Miami's season of epic struggle by handing the Heat their biggest loss of the year.

Jose Calderon had 11 points and 10 assists for Toronto.

Dorell Wright scored 17 points for Miami, which has lost 19 of its past 20 overall, 10 of its past 11 at home.

Hawks 96, 76ers 91

At Atlanta, Josh Smith had 19 points, nine assists and nine blocks to lead Atlanta to victory from 20 down in the first quarter.

Josh Childress scored 21 points and Joe Johnson added 18 for Atlanta.

Andre Miller scored 29 points and Andre Iguodala had 22 for Philadelphia.

Clippers 103, Knicks 94

At New York, Corey Maggette scored 19 points in his return to the lineup, and Los Angeles snapped a nine-game road losing streak.

Chris Kaman, who like Maggette had missed the last four games with the flu, added 15 points and nine rebounds as Los Angeles improved to 1-2 on its seven-game road trip and handed New York its sixth straight loss.

Eddy Curry led the Knicks with 19 points.

Rockets 92, Timberwolves 86

At Minneapolis, Tracy McGrady had 26 points, six rebounds and seven assists, and surging Houston held on for the win.

Though McGrady had a season-high seven turnovers, he made the shots when they counted, including the clinching 3-pointer with 30 seconds to go after Al Jefferson led the improving Wolves on an impressive rally. Jefferson had 33 points and 16 rebounds.

Rashad McCants finished with 15 points for Minnesota, which had its four-game home winning streak end.

Suns 118, Bobcats 104

At Phoenix, Leandro Barbosa scored 30 points and Raja Bell added 24, including a season-high seven 3-pointers, to help Phoenix stay unbeaten against Charlotte.

Barbosa hit five 3-pointers as the Suns improved to 8-0 against Charlotte since the Bobcats' franchise was established in 2004.

Jason Richardson scored 25 for the Bobcats, who lost the last four on a five-game road trip. Emeka Okafor had 18 points and 13 rebounds for Charlotte.

Jazz 110, Hornets 88

At Salt Lake City, Deron Williams had 29 points and 11 assists, and Utah set a team record for 3-pointers in winning its 11th straight home game.

The Jazz extended their winning streak to nine games and went 14-for-22 from 3-point range, getting six from Kyle Korver and three from Williams, who has eighth consecutive double-double.

Williams outplayed New Orleans guard Chris Paul, selected for the All-Star game last week while Williams was not. Williams got Paul into foul trouble and Paul finished with just six points and six assists.

Carlos Boozer finished with 19 points and 17 rebounds for Utah.

Bulls 118, SuperSonics 108

At Seattle, Joe Smith scored 25 points in his first game back after missing three with an injury and Chicago defeated Seattle.

Ben Gordon added 20 points for the Bulls, who won for just the second time in six games behind their third-highest scoring game of the season. Kirk Hinrich had 15 points and five assists for Chicago before he left the game in the fourth quarter with bruised ribs. He planned to stay behind and have tests done on the injury as the Bulls went on to Portland for Wednesday's game.

Wally Szczerbiak led the Sonics with 21 points and rookie Kevin Durant added 20.

Nuggets 105, Trail Blazers 103, OT

At Portland, Oregon, Allen Iverson's 14-foot fadeaway jump shot with less than a second left in overtime gave Denver a victory over Portland.

Denver led by as many as 17 in the first half but the Trail Blazers battled back.

Carmelo Anthony led the Nuggets with 28 points and 15 rebounds. Iverson finished with 25 points.

Brandon Roy had 26 points for the Blazers.

Imperfect Pats could lose key players

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—The only perfect thing about the Patriots was their record. Now they don't even have that. Dominant in the first half of the season, they survived some close calls afterward. But that finally caught up with them in the Super Bowl and left them facing an offseason of what-ifs and what-will-bes.

What if their offensive line studded with three Pro Bowl players had kept the team's most important player from being knocked down time after time in the most important game?

Will Randy Moss and Asante Samuel leave?

Will Rodney Harrison, Tedy Bruschi and Junior Seau, the three oldest defensive starters, retire?

And next time, will coach Bill Belichick hang around until the end of the game instead of heading for the locker room with a second left and a security escort Tom Brady would have envied.

The two-time Super Bowl MVP couldn't elude the steamrolling pass rush of the New York Giants the way he does the paparazzi who stalk him on the streets of the city where the new Super Bowl champions will be honored at a victory parade Tuesday.

Brady was sacked five times in Sunday's 17-14 loss, the most in his 92 games since the New York Jets did that in the third game of the 2003 season on Sept. 21, 2003.

So the Patriots finished 18-1 and disappointed, not 19-0 and historic. That left the 1972 Miami Dolphins, who were 17-0, as the only NFL team to go undefeated.

About 200 fans, though, turned out at Gillette Stadium on Monday night to cheer returning players. Belichick spent about three minutes slapping and shaking their hands. At one point, as about a dozen cameramen pressed in on him and blocked his path, Belichick pushed one aside.

"Bill, Bill, Bill," one excited fan yelled.

"Thank you, coach," said another.

Brady, who was not among about 30 players who returned to the stadium, was a near unanimous choice for the league's MVP and was brilliant in the first eight games of the season. He was not as good after that.

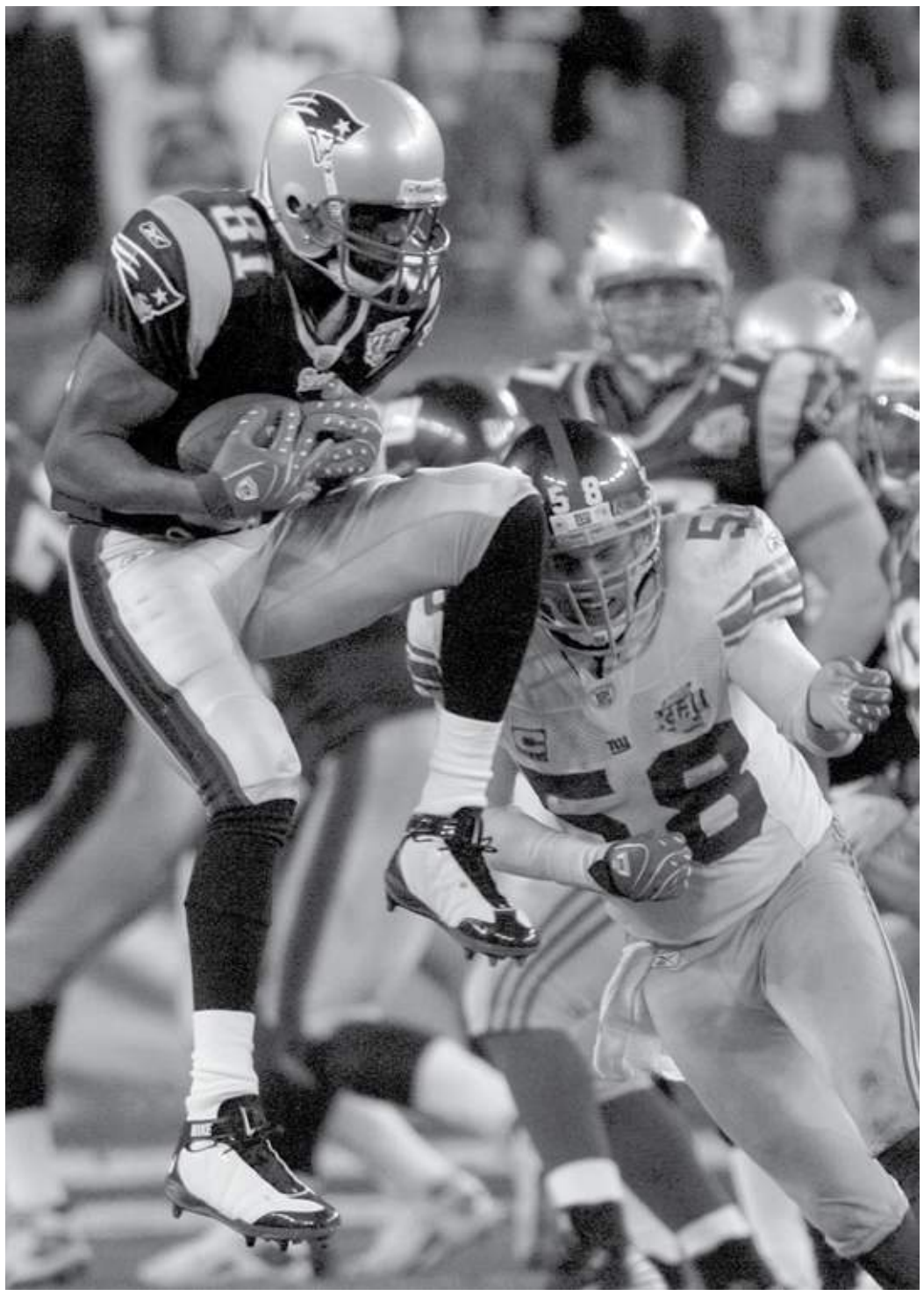
His five worst passer ratings came in his last eight games, including the postseason. In the AFC championship game against San Diego, he threw a season-high three interceptions. In the Super Bowl, he was uncharacteristically inaccurate on some passes even when he had time to throw.

"I'm sure we all could have done things better, but it's just part of competition," Brady said of the devastating defeat.

New England won three Super Bowls in four seasons before falling short the next three years - losing to Denver in a divisional playoff game, to Indianapolis in last year's AFC championship game and to New York in the latest disappointment.

After coming so close last season, the Patriots added receivers Moss, Wes Welker and Donte' Stallworth. They signed free agent Adalius Thomas for their aging group of linebackers. And they kept Samuel, designating the star cornerback a franchise player and signing him for one year after he held out for a long-term contract.

The offense set several single-season records: 50 touchdown passes by Brady, 23 scoring catches by Moss and 589 total points.



AP

New England Patriots receiver Randy Moss (81) makes a catch against New York Giants linebacker Antonio Pierce (58) during the fourth quarter of the Super Bowl XLII football game at University of Phoenix Stadium on Sunday, Feb. 3, 2008 in Glendale, Ariz.

But the season began with off-field problems.

Harrison, the hard-hitting safety, was suspended for the first four games for violating the league's substance abuse policy.

After the season-opening 38-14 win over the New York Jets, the NFL fined Belichick $500,000 and the team $250,000 and took away a first-round draft choice as punishment for videotaping Jets' coaches on their sideline.

That only fired up the Patriots. They were accused of running up the score in some of their wins.

But the Patriots shrugged off the criticism and kept focusing on the next opponent. They won each of their first eight games by at least 17 points.

Then the powerhouse that pulled away from opponents began letting them hang around.

In their ninth game, they beat Indianapolis 24-20 on a touchdown with 3:15 left. In their 11th, they scored the go-ahead touchdown with 7:20 to go but needed two interceptions in the last four minutes to clinch the 31-28 win over Philadelphia.

The following week was the greatest of escapes.

They trailed 24-20 at Baltimore and failed twice on fourth down in the last two minutes. But the first play was nullified by a false start penalty against the Patriots and the second by a holding call against the Ravens. On the next play, Brady threw the winning 8-yard scoring pass to Jabar Gaffney with 44 seconds left.

And, in the last regular-season game, the defense struggled in a 38-35 win over the Giants.

But how long could their good fortune hold out?

Not long enough.

With 2:42 left in the Super Bowl, Brady's 6-yard touchdown pass to Moss gave the Patriots a 14-10 lead.

But the defense couldn't hold it. Eli Manning directed an 83-yard drive and hit Plaxico Burress for the decisive 13-yard scoring pass with 35 seconds remaining.

Perfection denied.

"It's not even worth talking about it now because it's over. It didn't happen," Bruschi said. "We can look back on this year with a positive attitude and some of the things we accomplished. But when you don't finish, I mean, that's all we're about."

Belichick didn't finish either.

After Brady's fourth-down desperation pass to Moss fell incomplete, Belichick went on the field for a handshake with Giants coach Tom Coughlin.

There was still 1 second left, but Belichick continued toward the locker room as Manning knelt down on the final play. Moss once left the field with 2 seconds remaining in a regular-season loss to Washington when he was with Minnesota and was criticized for it by his quarterback, Daunte Culpepper.

Belichick, at least, will be back.

Seau, 39, may not be.

"I haven't thought about the future. I am having too much fun," he said. Losing "will not affect my decision."

Harrison, 35, was beset by injuries in 2006 and 2007. Bruschi, 34, suffered a stroke after the Patriots last Super Bowl win but returned midway through the next season in 2005.

"I can't let that loss take away from everything that happened this season," Harrison said.

Moss, who took a pay cut for a shot at the Super Bowl, may not be back for another with the Patriots.

"I would love to be in a New England Patriots uniform," he said, "but, if not, the show must go on."

It will continue with Belichick and Brady, of course, partners in four Super Bowls—all decided by three points.

"We usually are on the better side of those three-point wins," Brady said. "We just have to regroup and come back and try to make it stronger next year."

Judge: Vick can keep $16.25M in bonuses

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Jailed quarterback Michael Vick can keep all but $3.75 million of the nearly $20 million in bonus money he received from the Atlanta Falcons following a ruling Monday by a federal judge. The Falcons sought to recover the bonuses after Vick pleaded guilty to federal charges in a dogfighting operation. The bonuses were paid from 2004-07.

A special master ruled in October the Falcons were entitled to recover the bonuses. The Falcons argued Vick used proceeds from a contract he signed in 2004 to finance his illicit activities.

But U.S. District Judge David Doty of Minneapolis ruled that recovery of most of the bonus money by the Falcons would violate the NFL collective bargaining agreement. The agreement does not allow roster bonus money to be forfeited once it's been earned, the judge wrote.

Vick received a 23-month jail sentence and entered a minimum-security prison in Leavenworth, Kan., last month. The league has suspended Vick indefinitely without pay.

"It makes no sense that an individual who willfully violates his contract is entitled to be paid tens of millions of dollars even though he is in jail and providing no services whatsoever to his employer," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said.

Vick's personal attorney, Lawrence Woodward Jr., said Vick was happy with the ruling but understands there could be appeals.

"He's grateful for some good news but he realizes he needs to keep doing all the right things to get back to playing football," Woodward said.

At a November hearing, union attorney Jeffrey Kessler contended Vick's "roster bonus" should be treated the same as a "performance bonus," which can't be forfeited under the agreement. The league maintained the roster bonus should be treated like a "signing bonus allocation," which could be forfeited.

Doty ruled that once Vick made the Falcons' 80-man roster, he earned the bonus money and the team cannot demand forfeiture. However, he wrote, the Falcons can recover $3.75 million of his 2006 signing bonus, which is governed by other rules and is something the union did not challenge.

"The Players Association is obviously delighted with the result," Kessler said. "It vindicates our view that a clear deal was made—that once players earn their compensation that it is no longer subject to being taken back."

While the distinction about whether Vick's roster bonuses were guaranteed or not guaranteed may be important for salary cap purposes, Doty wrote, "it does not dictate the outcome in a forfeiture context."

Any money recovered would be credited to Atlanta's future salary cap.

Doty also ruled the Falcons may not use state law, even in a grievance procedure, to try to recoup Vick's bonus money.

Atlanta Falcons president Rich McKay said the team is disappointed with the ruling, but it won't affect the Falcons' salary cap for the 2008 season.

"Any potential recovery would have only affected our 2009 salary cap," McKay said. "As to our future legal strategies, we will meet with our legal representatives to more fully understand our options before making that determination."

Open tryouts for Oceania Championships

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipan tribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics will hold open tryouts in 24 events both in the men's and women's open category and Under-18 male and female divisions in preparation for the 2008 Oceania Area Championships.

NMA development officer Elias Rangamar released the list of events NMA athletes and other individuals can try out to become a member of the CNMI track and field team.

Rangamar said the list of events includes the qualifying times in the running events and distances for all field events, which will be the standard to be used in order to qualify for Team CNMI in the Oceania Championships.

"We are inviting everyone to compete in the open tryouts. We will be holding qualifying meets every month and athletes must qualify by June 1," Rangamar said.

JON PEREZ
Northern Marianas Athletics athletes, from left, Matthew Mancao, Allen Moses, Nate Mateo, and Champ Untalan compete in last year's McDonald's All-School's Championships.

Saipan will be hosting the Oceania Championships and Grand Prix Series from June 21 to 28 at the Oleai Track and Field facility inside the Susupe Sports Complex where 19 OAA member federations and New Caledonia will be competing.

Joining host CNMI and associate member New Caledonia in the weeklong event are powerhouse teams Australia and New Zealand as well as OAA member federations American Samoa, the Solomon Islands, the Cook Islands, Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Norfolk Island, Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, Tahiti, Guam, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

Rangamar said starting last January the NMA has been holding monthly competitions to select the composition of Team CNMI based on the qualifying times and distances and criteria.

"Those who met the qualifying times and distances does not mean that you are already member of the team, another criteria to become a member of Team CNMI is you must have attended 90 percent of the practices," said Rangamar.

He added those runners who have been training on their own could also qualify provided that they would submit their own time.

Those who qualify can come and practice with other NMA athletes at the Oleai Track and Field Facility from Monday to Saturday from 5pm to 7pm.

Rangamar reminded everyone that the Oleai track oval is still closed to the public since the personnel from the Division of Sports and Recreation are busy preparing the facility for the Area Championships.

"The track is still closed until after the competition. It is only open to organized practice and football games. I hope everyone understands and respect our decision," Rangamar said.

Plans are also underway to build the grandstands in time for the Area Championships. Construction begins by the end of February or first week of March.

Realtors denounce 'biased officiating'

MANILA, Philippines— With the intensity level in the semifinals between Sta. Lucia Realty and Alaska at a feverish pitch, the Philippine Basketball Association is expected to tighten the screws on officiating during the remainder of the semifinal series.

Commissioner Sonny Barrios Monday vowed to defuse the explosive atmosphere in the Smart-PBA Philippine Cup at a manageable level after the Realtors slammed what they claimed was one-sided officiating.

After the game Sunday night, Sta. Lucia governor Buddy Encarnado went straight to the Office of the Commissioner at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City and complained of bad calls and poor referee judgment. The Aces had just defeated his Realtors, 93-80, tying the best-of-seven duel after four games.

Encarnado met again with Barrios Monday and formally aired his grievances. He blew his top Sunday after the referee failed to call an offensive foul on Alaska's Willie Miller who rammed Sta. Lucia's Dennis Miranda late in the fourth quarter.

"We're used to losing but not this way," a Sta. Lucia source quoted Encarnado as telling Barrios.

Watching the game from the third row at ringside, Encarnado stormed the court and lambasted the referees.

Sta. Lucia coach Boyet Fernandez showed his frustration by raising both his hands every time the referees made an unfavorable call. He mockingly praised the men in gray for working the game the way they did.

"The challenge for us now is to deliver what's expected from us, which is to maintain order and discipline," said Barrios after hearing out Encarnado.

"It's actually applicable to the four teams since both series are tied and they're all on equal footing."

Red Bull also knotted its series with Purefoods Sunday night, but nothing was more intense than the desire shown by the Realtors, who captured their only PBA title in 2001.

"We shared play situations and we had a healthy exchange of what's legal and illegal on the court," said Barrios, describing his meeting with Encarnado. "The concern of Sta. Lucia is the equal application of the rules."

Alaska coach Tim Cone said he understood the simmering animosity despite getting insulted by a member of the Sta. Lucia team on his way to the media room for the mandatory post-game interview.

As Cone was about to plop down on his chair in the press room, the Sta. Lucia supporter opened the door and hurled the derogatory remark.

"I brought it to their attention but Sta. Lucia failed to make any comments," said Barrios. "It could be a fan."

"We could probably kiss and make up after the series, but right now we're not friends," said Cone, who still refused to shake Fernandez's hand after the game. ***(PDI)***

ROCK STEADY

From Page 28

It was a back-to-back title win of sorts for Rock Steady since James Lee, Fred Pelisamen, Mel Manibusan, Kelvin Fitial, Mark Wallace, and James Villacrusis were members of the 2006 champions CNMI Men's National Team that represented host Saipan in the 6th Micronesian Games held from June 23 to July 2.

Other members of the CNMI National Team were Danandro Barcinas, Jeremy Winkfield, Oscar Ada, John Sablan, Jeremy Sablan, Gus Palacios, and Joe Kapileo. Head coach was Rufino Aguon while Champ Fejeran was the assistant.

Rock Steady compiled a 10-2 record in the regular season with their two losses coming from the CNMI Junior Nationals and pennant winners Ol'Aces.

They opened the league with a 111-92 tripping of the Southern Sonics last Sept. 26, a victory that was part of their five-game winning run. Their winning spree ended with an 89-91 loss to the Junior Nationals last Nov. 5.

With Pelisamen, Wallace, and Andres "Jhun" Estolas Jr. leading the team in scoring, the Rock Steady offensive juggernaut averaged 100.6 points per game.

Other members of the 2007 team were Joe Villacrusis, Sivas Awes, Ric Alegre, Junar Guiab, and Ed Manalili

They scored their lowest points of 87 in a loss to the Ol'Aces, their second in the regular season, last Nov. 30. Their highest scoring output was a 118 points in a victory against G-Rollers II last Dec. 10.

Rock Steady also uses a stinging defense where they limited their opponents to 77.6 points per game and enjoy an average winning margin of 23 per night.

They held Lali IV to a season low 45 points last Oct 8, while letting PTI/FMI score the most points against them, 94, on Oct. 19. Rock Steady both won those games.

Rock Steady's 106-45 win is also one of the most lopsided contests in the Bud Cup with their 61-point winning margin as the most biggest in the 2007 season.

After an 87-92 loss to the Ol'Aces last Dec. 10, Rock Steady never dropped a match going on to a seven-game winning streak en route to a 92-78 decision against the Saipan Stevedore Suns in the finals last Feb. 1.

PIC

From Page 28

matching up against PIC big men Derrick Tudela, Butch Kaipat, and Richard Pambid as the three have been averaging in double figures and have consistently led scoring for their squad.

Tudela leads the PIC offense averaging 16.5 points and 10.3 rebounds per game, while Kaipat is churning out and all-around game of 15.2 points, seven rebounds, five assists, and 2.3 steals per outing.

Pambid is scoring 12.7 points per game, while the backcourt tandem of James Abuy and Marino Pungilug is scoring a combined 23 points per game.

Aquarius needs to change its game plan if it hopes to earn its first win. They are still winless since becoming the league's seventh member during the holiday break last December.

Aquarius opened up with a 62-73 loss to Hafadai last Jan. 6 with their latest setback coming from Fiesta-Grand, 95-106, last Jan. 27. They also suffered a 75-85 loss to defending champion Aqua Resort Club last Jan. 20.

World Resort handed Aquarius its worst loss so far, a 57-point drubbing, 96-39, last Jan. 20.

Aquarius needs to crank up its offense as they have been only averaging 67.7 points per game, while giving up 90 per outing against opponents. They have been losing an average of 22.3 points per game.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	36	8	.818	_
Toronto	26	21	.553	11 1/2
New Jersey	20	27	.426	17 1/2
Philadelphia	18	30	.375	20
New York	14	34	.292	24

Southeast Division

Orlando	31	19	.620	_
Washington	24	22	.522	5
Atlanta	20	24	.455	8
Charlotte	18	31	.367	12 1/2
Miami	9	37	.196	20

Central Division

Detroit	34	13	.723	_
Cleveland	26	20	.565	7 1/2
Chicago	19	28	.404	15
Indiana	19	29	.396	15 1/2
Milwaukee	18	30	.375	16 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	32	15	.681	_
New Orleans	32	15	.681	_
San Antonio	29	16	.644	2
Houston	28	20	.583	4 1/2
Memphis	13	34	.277	19

Northwest Division

Utah	31	18	.633	_
Denver	29	18	.617	1
Portland	27	20	.574	3
Seattle	12	36	.250	18 1/2
Minnesota	10	37	.213	20

Pacific Division

Phoenix	34	14	.708	_
L.A. Lakers	30	16	.652	3
Golden State	29	19	.604	5
Sacramento	22	24	.478	11
L.A. Clippers	15	30	.333	17 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Dallas 107, Orlando 98
Atlanta 96, Philadelphia 91
Toronto 114, Miami 82
L.A. Clippers 103, New York 94
Houston 92, Minnesota 86
Phoenix 118, Charlotte 104
Utah 110, New Orleans 88
Chicago 118, Seattle 108
Denver 105, Portland 103, OT

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

NMIFA Men's Standings

	W	L	D	Pts
FC Arirang	2	0	1	7
Onwel	2	0	1	7
Inter	1	1	1	4
Independents	1	1	1	4
Multinational FC	1	2	0	3
Ol'Aces	0	3	0	0

W-Win
L-Loss
D-Draw
Pts.-Points

HANMI Cup Standings

Fiesta Resort- Saipan Grand	5	1
Aqua Resort Club	5	1
Pacific Islands Club	3	1
Hyatt Regency Saipan	2	2
Hafadai Beach Hotel	2	3
Saipan World Resort	1	5
Aquarius Beach Tower	0	4

Saipan Super Bowl XLII Parties

NFL fans on Saipan gather at the Saipan World Resort's Red Box to watch the big game.

JON PEREZ

JON PEREZ

Ed Manning is all smiles after winning one of two X-Box 360s that were given away by MARPAC during the halftime show of Super Bowl XLII at Godfather's Bar.

Far left, SaipanCell Communications marketing representative James K. Lee joins teammates from Budweiser Cup champions Rock Steady and other friends during the Super Bowl party at Saipan Grand Hotel's Southern Cross Bar.

MARK RABAGO

Left, Clubmate-in-charge Mack McGillivray poses with other clubmate during last Monday's Super Bowl party at Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret.

MARK RABAGO

Joe and Noli's gang whoop it up at Godfather's Bar. JON PEREZ

MARK RABAGO

Budweiser sales manager Mel Tenorio, right, and staff flank Oleai Beach Bar & Grill manager Mara Lambon during the Super Bowl party held Monday at the restaurant.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Football fanatics gather for the NFL Game Day at Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Island's Club.

JON PEREZ

New York Giants fans Richard Brundage, standing right, and Pete Callaghan celebrate at their team's point conversion as they watched Super Bowl XLII at VFW Post in Garapan.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Super Bowl XLII fans show intense emotions after the Giants victory over the Patriots.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A spirited crowd gathers at the Pacific Island's Club to watch the game.

Open try outs for Oceania Championships

Northern Marianas Athletics will hold open tryouts in 24 events both in the men's and women's open category and Under-18 male and female divisions in preparation for the 2008 Oceania Area Championships. **26**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Bob Knight resigns as Texas Tech coach

Bob Knight left when he wanted to this time. Almost a decade after he was fired by Indiana, the school he led to three national championships, Knight walked away Monday from college basketball in midseason. **24**

Unseeded Aussie is Lee's first foe

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Vivian Lee will open up her New Zealand campaign against an unseeded Australian as action in the SunSmart Under-18 Canterbury Championships started yesterday at the Scenic Circle Hotels Tennis Center at Wilding Park in Christchurch.

The Canterbury Championships is one of two International Tennis Federation Grade IV events that Lee will be competing while in New Zealand.

Lee, who also competed in several ITF junior events in Malaysia and Brunei, was playing Australia's Nicole Hoynaski in the sixth match of the main draw of the Canterbury Championships. Results were not yet available at press time.

The 15-year-old Lee is among the 51 players in the main draw along with Abigail Tere-Apisah of Papua New Guinea and Samoa's Steffi Carruthers, who are ranked 515 and 1,469 in the world junior rankings.

Top seed Chelsea Te Tai of New Zealand joined Australia's second and third ranked Ashling Sumner and Mia Vriens, No. 4 and 5 Katherine Westbury and Abigail Guthrie of New Zealand, sixth seed Haruka Naito of Japan and No. 7 Amelia Harris of New Zealand in the next round after all went on a first round bye.

Lee, who ranked 973 in the ITF world junior rankings last year, holds a 2-3 career singles record in ITF-organized events. She has yet to win a doubles match after three games.

The right-handed Lee, who mostly uses a double-handed backhand in her return volleys, said the hard court is her surface of choice

Despite knowing little of how her opponents play, the Grace Christian Academy sophomore said she would try her best in both tournaments.

The 14-year-old Hoynaski holds a 0-2 record in her career singles and doubles in ITF-sponsored tournaments.

After the Canterbury Championships, Lee will head to Wellington to join the Wellington 18-and-under Summer Championships from Feb. 11 to 16 at the Renouf Tennis Center at Brooklyn Road, Brooklyn.

Unlike in the Canterbury Championships where she is entered in the main draw, Lee this time will have to battle 15 other junior players for the eight qualifying spots at stake in the week-long event.

The two junior tennis tournaments are ITF world junior ranking events where players can earn points. Lee is expected to return to Saipan on Feb. 19.

Vivian Lee watches her forehand return in one of her training sessions at Hyatt Regency Saipan tennis courts.

JON PEREZ

Rock Steady's road to Bud Cup crown

JON PEREZ
Mark Wallace of Rock Steady tries to get past a Lali IV player in this file photo taken during their Oct. 8 match.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Rock Steady worked like a well-oiled machine in its 2007 title campaign in the BANMI-Budweiser Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League.

They only lost twice the whole season and went into a seven-game winning spree from Dec. 10 to Feb. 1 to complete its own version of claiming their second straight title.

See ROCK STEADY on Page 26

PIC aims for third straight win

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Pacific Islands Club aims for its third straight win when they go up against a winless Aquarius Beach Tower five in today's first game of the HANMI Cup 2nd Annual Inter-Hotel Basketball League.

Game time is at 8pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The 9:30pm second match will feature last year's runner-up Hyatt Regency Saipan against a dangerous Hafadai Beach Hotel side.

PIC is currently riding on a two-game winning streak, including a morale-boosting 84-78 win over 2007 finalist Hyatt on Jan. 27. PIC debuted with an 83-60 crushing of World Resort on Dec. 9.

PIC's recent win was a 90-80 trouncing of Hafadai last Sunday. Its lone loss was a 73-86 setback at the hands of Fiesta-Grand on Jan. 20.

Aquarius is expected to have a hard time

See PIC on Page 26

JON PEREZ
Derrick Tudela of Pacific Islands Club guards Hyatt Regency's Edmark Mendoza in this file photo taken during their game in the HANMI Cup 2nd Annual Inter-Hotel Basketball League on Jan. 27 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Onwel forces two-way tie for lead

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Onwel relied on consecutive goals by Somboon Plangrsi and Jess Phonsutjit in pulling off a 4-1 win over Multinational FC in Sunday's action in the 2008 Men's Winter Football League at the Oleai Field.

The win forced a two-way tie for the lead as Onwel joined FC Arirang on top of the standings with similar 2-0-1 win-loss-draw records for seven points.

Inter and the Independents hold identical 1-1-1 slates with four points, while Multinational is in fifth place with a 1-2-0 mark and three points. Ol'Aces is still winless after three games.

Plangrsi found the bottom of the goal in the 21st and 40th minute of the game as Onwel enjoyed a 2-0 lead at halftime. Phonsutjit made it 3-0 in the 80th minute.

The Multinationals only scored in the 87th minute of the second half courtesy of a Joe Miller goal.

Phonsutjit added insult to injury when he added another goal in the final minutes of stoppage time.

Onwel players Narongchai Khamka and Vichai Suthisombat were each called for a foul and awarded yellow cards for their actions.

In the second game, FC Arirang had a field day in cruising to a 12-0 mauling of Ol'Aces.

Yoon Won Choi and Sung In Kim led Arirang's one-sided win scoring five goals apiece, while Fengh Zhe Han and an unnamed player added a goal each.

Arirang and Ol'Aces played a clean match as no cards or cautions were given to the players of each squad.

Inter was forced to a 2-2 draw by the Independents for the final match of the day.

Jack Thoehsaket scored early in the first half as the Independents entered halftime with a 1-0 lead. Jason Schroeder made it 2-0 in the second half.

Nick Swaim prevented an Independents victory after kicking consecutive goals midway in the match to force the draw.

The Independents' Eli Torgeson, who is known on Saipan for conquering various running events, was slapped a yellow card.

Men's Football League committee chair Michael Thomas also reminded teams that no games will be played on Feb. 17, Sunday, to give way for a planned tournament by the Korean Football Association.

Thomas said all games scheduled on Feb. 17 would be played on April 6. He added that there would also be some minor changes on the March 30 and April 6 games. "I'll let [everyone] know when that happens."